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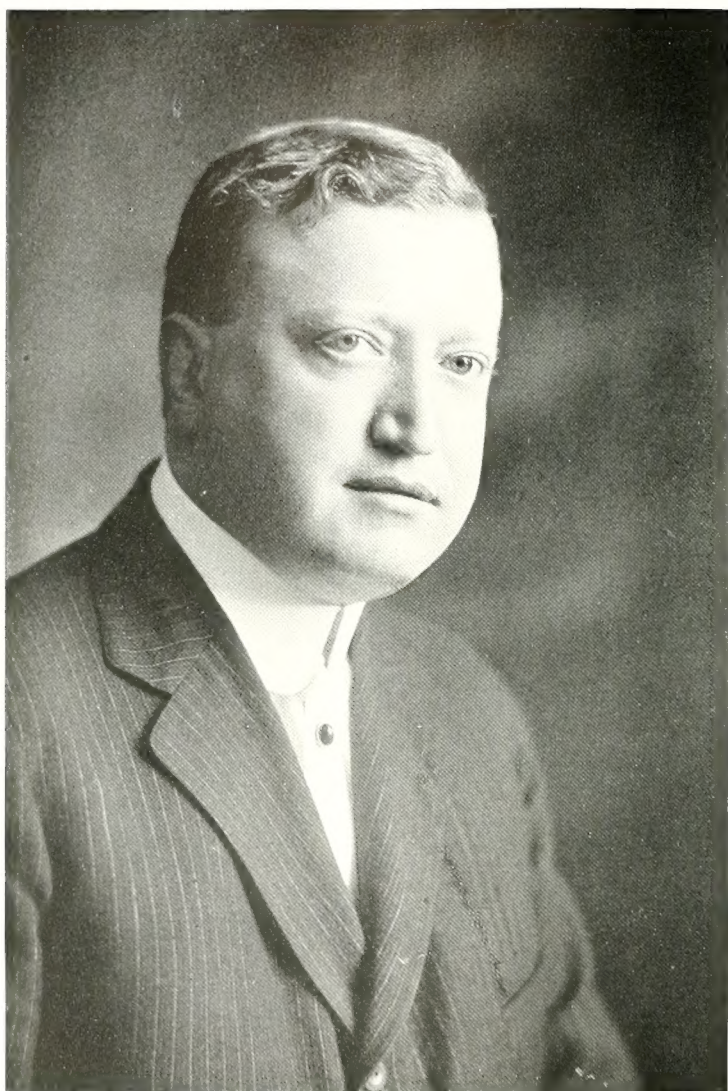












*J. Curtiss-Lodge.*



# HISTORY OF WRIGHT COUNTY MINNESOTA

BY  
FRANKLYN CURTISS-WEDGE

*ILLUSTRATED*

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*VOLUME I*

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CHICAGO  
H. C. COOPER, JR., & CO.  
1915





1885

TO THE  
STURDY PIONEERS OF WRIGHT COUNTY  
WHO, AMID INNUMERABLE HARDSHIPS, BLAZED THE WAY  
FOR THE PRESENT GENERATIONS;  
AND TO THEIR  
DESCENDANTS and SUCCESSORS  
THIS VOLUME IS DEDICATED  
BY ALL WHO HAVE ASSISTED IN ITS CONSTRUCTION





## FOREWORD.

It is with a feeling of considerable pride and pleasure that the publishers present this history for the approval of the people of Wright county. The undertaking has not been an easy one and the difficulties have been many, so many indeed that this publication would not have been possible without the liberal assistance of the citizens of the county. The chief contributors and editors have given freely of their time and talent; business men, church officials, fraternity, association and corporation officials, manufacturers, professional men and bankers, often at great personal sacrifice, have laid aside their regular duties to write of their communities and special interests; educators have written of the schools, and men and women in all walks of life have given the information at their command, regarding themselves, their families, their activities and their localities. To all of these the readers of this work owe a lasting debt of gratitude, and to each and every one the publishers extend their heartfelt thanks.

In handling the vast amount of material gathered for this work, it has been the aim of the entire staff to select such matter as is authentic, reliable and interesting. Doubtless facts have been included that many will deem of little moment, but these same facts to others may be of the deepest import. It may be also that some facts have been omitted that many readers would like to see included. To such readers we can only say that to publish every incident in the life of the county would be to issue a work of many volumes, and in choosing such material as would come within the limits of two volumes we believe that the matter selected is that which will prove of greatest interest to the greatest number of readers, and also that which is most worthy of being handed down to future generations, who in this volume, in far distant years, may read of their large-souled, rugged-bodied ancestors and predecessors, who gave up their homes in older communities to brave the rigors of pioneer endeavor.

A few omissions may be due to some of the people of the county, themselves, as in many instances repeated requests for information have met with no response. In such cases information gathered from other sources, while authentic, may be lacking in copious detail. In other instances the indifference of persons who should have been interested has kept from us information which we have made strenuous efforts to secure and which we would have desired to include in this work.

Before passing hasty judgment on apparent errors, one should consider carefully, not relying on tradition or memory. In many cases we have found that persons' memories are faulty and tradition erroneous when measured by the standard of official records, even in the case of comparatively recent events, while in many instances families are under the impression that their forebears arrived in the county long before it was possible for them to do so. We have endeavored to follow a uniform system of the spelling of proper names, although various spellings of even the most familiar names appear in the newspapers and records.



The biographies have been gathered with care from those most interested, and with a few exceptions have been revised and corrected by the subject of the biography or by a relative or friend. As verification of all the details is impossible, the editors disclaim responsibility for any errors therein, the opportunity having been given the various families for making any corrections desired. This, however, refers to the dates, incidents and sequence of events; all personal estimates being the work of the editors and inserted in biographies only after consultation with the various members of the staff.

Among the authorities consulted and in many cases quoted copiously are: History of the Upper Mississippi Valley; D. R. Farnham's History of Wright County published in the "Delano Eagle"; Minnesota in Three Centuries; the histories of southern Minnesota counties by the editor of the present work; the various publications of the state of Minnesota and the United States government; as well as the publications of the Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota historical societies, and many other biographical, historical, and archaeological works of reference. The files of the newspapers of this and neighboring counties have been carefully perused, as have the county, township, village, city, and church records. Hundreds of minute-books have been scanned and thousands of letters and original manuscripts carefully examined. To all those who have extended us courtesies during our research of these records we extend our thanks. The gentlemen at the courthouse, Clerk of Court Edward C. Tuttle, Sheriff Angus H. Grant, Auditor John A. Berg, Treasurer Orson C. Chamberlain, Register of Deeds O. J. Peterson, Judge of Probate Henry Spindler, and County Attorney S. A. Johnson deserve special thanks, for in many cases the completeness of our information is due to their untiring efforts in their desire that the history should be worthy of the county whose officials they are. A. C. Heath has reviewed many of the proof sheets, and C. J. Buckley placed at the disposal of the editor the files of the "Delano Eagle." The names of those who have prepared articles for us appear in many instances at the head of the chapters and in inserted notes, but to name the hundreds who have assisted us would be impossible. Their reward will be the gratitude that future generations will feel that these facts have been gathered and preserved. We have taken advantage of every available source of information, and have labored earnestly to secure conciseness and accuracy. The usual extended stories of the incidents of the early days have in some instances been omitted, the purpose of this history being to provide a ready book of reference rather than a book of romance dealing with pioneer adventures.

That the history is faultless, we do not presume; it is probably not within the power of man to arrange a work of this kind without minor mistakes of one sort or another; that it will meet with the unqualified approval of all, we dare not expect; but we trust that the great merits of the work will overbalance any shortcomings that may be discovered; and our forty years of experience in this work assures us that the history will increase in value year after year.

Our association with the people of Wright county has been a most pleasant one. We have conscientiously performed our task, and in placing the history in the hands of those whom it most concerns, our hope is that we have done our work well.

H. C. COOPER JR. & CO.

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## CHAPTER I.

### NATURAL PHENOMENA.

**Advantages — Location — Surface Features — Drainage — Lakes — Ice Formed Ridges—Topography—Soil and Timber—Geological Structure—Glacial and Modified Drift—The Moraine —Fossiliferous Beds—Boulders of the Drift—Lignite Deposits —Explorations for Coal—Typical Till Exposure—Waterpowers—Underground Waters—Yield of Water—Head of Water —Quality of the Water—Cretaceous Rocks—Paleozoic and Older Formations—Water Supply in the Villages—Farm Water Supplies—Summary and Analysis.**

On its splendid course from Itasca to the Gulf, the mighty Mississippi passes no fairer land than that which it touches in the central part of Minnesota, where, well tilled and populous, Wright county stretches away in sightly prospects.

A fertile country of rich black soil, its surface divided into hills and rolling land and prairie, beautified by meandering streams and sparkling lakes, and interspersed with natural and domestic groves, the county has advantages of location and surface which have made it one of the best agricultural and dairy counties in the state.

The elevation of this stretch of land above the sea, its fine drainage and the dryness of the atmosphere give it a climate of unusual salubrity and pleasantness. Its latitude gives it correspondingly longer days in summer and during the growing seasons about one and a half hours more of sunshine than in the latitude of St. Louis. The refreshing breezes and cool nights in summer prevent the debilitating effect of the heat so often felt in lower latitudes. The winter climate is also one of the attractive features. Its uniformity and its dryness, together with the bright sunshine and the electrical condition of the air, all tend to enhance the personal comfort of the resident, and to make outdoor life and labor a pleasure.

Embracing, as the county does, so pleasing a prospect to the eye, and so fruitful a field for successful endeavor, it is natural that the people who from the earliest days have been attracted here should be the possessors of steady virtues, ready to toil and to sacrifice, that their labors might be crowned with the fruits of prosperity and happiness.

While there are no large cities, there are many thriving smaller places along the three lines of railroad. These places have had their share in the general commercial upbuilding of the community, furnishing excellent trading and shipping facilities for the rural districts as well as for their own people.

The agricultural neighborhoods are the scenes of peace, prosperity and contentment. The homes are substantially built, and furnished with the comforts and conveniences of modern life; stock is humanely housed and well pastured; the farm land is extensively tilled and productive; and the churches and schools which are seen on every side testify to an interest in the higher things of life by a law-abiding, progressive and prosperous people.

It is indeed in its men and women, rather than in its creameries and commerce, its grains and vegetables, its live stock and fruits, that Wright county takes her greatest pride. From her hamlets, from her villages and from her farms have gone forth those who have taken an important part in the activities of the world, and who, whether in commerce or diplomacy, in the professions or in the trades, have maintained that steadfastness of purpose, and staunchness of character, that mark true Wright county men and women wherever they may be found.

Unusually blessed by nature with deep soil and abundant natural resources, and endowed with a wealth of historic and prehistoric lore, the county is a fitting home for the sturdy people who have here made their dwelling place. Hard-working, progressive, educated and prosperous, they have appreciated the gifts which nature has spread for them, and have added their own toil, and the fruit of their intellect, to the work of the elements, making the county one of the beautiful spots of the earth. On the slopes graze cattle and sheep, while the tilled lands respond to the efforts of the spring time sower and planter with a wealth of harvest in the summer and autumn. On nearly every quarter section is reared a comfortable home and commodious barns, while from the crest of every swell of land are visible the churches and schools wherein the people worship the Giver of All Gifts and educate their children. Thus blessed by God and beloved by man, the county today stands for all that is ideal in American life, and is forging ahead to wider influence and more extended opportunity.

Wright county, surpassed by few lands in the state for the fertility of its soil; its bountiful supply of timber and pure water; its numerous water powers; its surface of hills and rolling prairies; and its adaptation to every variety of agricultural product, has furnished to the citizens material wisely improved by them for substantial wealth, good homes and sound public institutions, economically and prudently administered; where law and good order, industry and sobriety have always been upheld and



observed; where the comforts and provisions for the enjoyment of life are evenly distributed, and where, in the future, as in the past, "peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, will be established throughout all generations."

Wright county is situated in the east central portion of the state, on the right bank of the Mississippi river, by which it is separated from Sherburne and Anoka counties on the north. Its eastern boundary is Hennepin county, most of which line is marked by Crow river. Carver and McLeod counties south, and Meeker and Stearns west, the latter partly marked by Clearwater river, complete its boundary. With more than half its outline marked by streams, its shape is irregular. The length of Wright county from east to west is thirty-six miles, and its greatest width is thirty and a half miles. Its southern and western boundaries are straight lines, the former twenty-four miles and the latter twenty-two miles. The county includes fourteen whole Congressional townships and parts of eleven others, together constituting twenty organized townships, twelve of which are each six miles square. Its area is 713.97 square miles or 456,939.32 acres, of which 32,585.50 is covered with water.

The surface of the county is gently undulating, with occasional portions somewhat hilly. A few beautiful prairies are found mostly in the northern part; the remainder being originally timber and meadow land.

It is dotted with numerous lakes, whose clear, lucid waters enrich the scenery and furnish unlimited enjoyment to sportsmen and pleasure-seekers. No town in the county is destitute of lakes, while myriad streams, which, as well as the lakes, are fed by springs, afford ample attraction to stock growers and farmers, while serving the further purpose of drainage, thereby rendering its area free from the malarious influences existing in less favored localities. The soil is very fertile, and produces in abundance all the varied list of cereals and vegetables grown in the Northwest. Year by year the timbered area has lessened and fertile fields supplanted the primeval forests, as have pleasant rural homes the wigwam of the native, or the still more recent claim shanty of the early pioneer.

The soil on the prairies is mostly a dark red loam, with a gravelly or sandy subsoil. In the regions originally covered with timber, the soil is mostly alluvial with a strong clay subsoil. The natural meadows or grass lands almost always rejected by the first settlers, came in time to be considered among the most valuable on account of the production of large quantities of hay of a superior quality, and fertility in producing the tame grasses such as timothy and red top.

**Flora and Fauna.** The flora and fauna of Wright county is that of Central Minnesota and the Big Woods region generally

and need not be treated at length in this work. The state of Minnesota has issued many books and pamphlets on the subject which will well repay the thoughtful reader for a careful perusal.

**Birds.** Wright county with its lakes and trees—its tempting fields and barn yards, has its full share of birds each season. The permanent residents and winter visitors find more food here than further south where the tree trunks are often covered with ice, while during the spring and summer seasons practically all the birds found in Minnesota can be found in these parts.

As early as March before the snow has begun to melt many of the summer birds are seen. The meadow lark and the prairie horned lark, the blue-bird, robin, red-winged blackbird, phoebe and flicker come while we are still wearing our winter furs. These are followed in April by the yellow headed blackbird, the martin, grackle, cowbird, mourning dove, catbird and the vesper and song sparrow.

Among the May birds are the rose-breasted grosbeak, the Baltimore and orchard orioles, yellow warbler, red-start, northern yellow throat humming bird, swallows, thrush, house wren, bobolink, king bird and pewee. Sometimes we have had snow storms in May and the birds have been fed with suet, bread crumbs and grain by the farmers and town people. In May the yellow bellied sapsucker taps the maple trees, riddling the trunks with holes not more than an inch apart, and it is often necessary to destroy the bird in order to save the tree. About the lakes are often found the great blue heron and the little green heron, the killdeer and sandpiper, while coots and loons are very plentiful.

Some winter visitants are the tree sparrows, often seen in flocks with the junco in town and country, and the snow bird who lives on small seed and comes in barn yards when the fields are covered with snow. The most striking winter bird is the evening grosbeak, which is only seen occasionally and in small numbers near boxelder trees. It is large, with a buff, white and black color scheme, and is sure to excite comment, both because of its rarity and its beauty.

With these winter birds are the permanent residents who receive more attention than in the summer months when the woods are filled with the brilliantly plumaged songsters. There are the two woodpeckers, hairy and northern downey, and the white-breasted nuthatch, who are easily attracted to our porches and window sills by suet or crumbs. The American gold finch loses its yellow color this time of year and looks like its buff female. The black capped chickadee is seen and heard through the entire year, as is the bob white or quail. It seems heartless to place these with game birds, as they so trustingly respond to a little kindness and will feed in yards except during the breeding season.

Hunters find snipe, prairie chickens, quail, plover, partridge and mallard, canvas back, teal, red head, spoon bill, blue bill and wood ducks, also wild geese.

### **SURFACE FEATURES.**

The following notes are from Vol. II, of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota, and embody the observations of Dr. Warren Upham, taken in 1879 and 1881.

**Natural Drainage.** The North branch of the Crow river enters Wright county near the middle of its west side, and crosses the county in a very meandering course, which has its general direction a little to the south of east. The South branch flows northerly through Franklin, the most southeast township of this county, and unites with the North branch at the east side of Rockford township, sixteen miles in a straight line southwest from the mouth of the Crow river at Dayton.

Clearwater river, along the last fifteen miles of its course, is the boundary of this county on the northwest. Near the middle of this distance it flows through Clearwater lake, four miles long and from a half mile to one and a half miles wide.

The only considerable tributaries of the Mississippi river from Wright county, besides the foregoing, are a small creek at Otsego; Otter creek, a mile above Monticello; and Silver creek, which flows through the township of this name. These, and the tributaries to Clearwater river, and the branches of Crow river in this county, are all small, only draining areas that reach five to twelve miles from their mouths.

**Lakes.** The largest lakes of this country are Pelican and Clearwater lakes, covering respectively about six and four square miles. Others worthy of note are Maple and French lakes, the former about three miles and the latter one mile in length, which give their names to the townships in which they are situated; Pulaski lake in Buffalo, one and a half miles long from north to south; Buffalo lake, one and a half miles in diameter, lying mostly in Chatham; Waverly, Howard and Cokato lakes, each about one and a half miles long; Granite lake in Albion, of similar length; Lake Ida and Limestone lake in Silver Creek, each about a mile long; Sugar and Cedar lakes, each two miles long from north to south, and Pleasant lake, one and a half miles long from east to west, in Corinna; and Sylvia lake, about two miles in length, nearly divided by a peninsula one mile long, in South Side. About ninety lakes occur in this county with a length equal to or greater than a half mile, and more than a hundred and fifty of less dimension appear on the map, while many others of small area are not delineated.

In many instances, especially in the southwest part of the county, these lakelets are becoming silted up and are more or less



filled with marsh-grass, sometimes being nearly dry in summer. They thus show the various stages intermediate between a lake and a slough. Throughout the whole county, sloughs or marshes are also frequent, varying from a few rods to a half mile in length, and in some cases they extend one or two miles.

It has been observed by the older residents that the streams and lakes were gradually diminishing in volume during the two decades of years preceding 1880. Several lakes were noted in the exploration, in 1879, between Buffalo and Crow river, depressed five to seven feet below a high-water mark at which they had formerly stood. The three more rainy years from 1880 to 1882, inclusive, restored the lakes and sloughs of this region generally to their highest stage.

**Ice-formed Ridges.** Many of the lakes in this county, as likewise in most other parts of the state, are partially bordered by a ridge, heaped four to eight feet in height, of gravel and sand, in which boulders, from two to five or six feet in diameter, frequently occur. This formation, when composed principally of gravel and sand, is commonly from thirty to seventy-five feet wide, having moderate slopes and a rounded top which varies a little in height. Again, when consisting chiefly of coarse gravel or boulders, the ridge may be quite steep, sometimes sloping at an angle of forty-five degrees upon the side away from the lake. These accumulations are found mostly where lakes are bordered by lowland or a marsh, from which the water is divided by this low ridge, which often looks like an artificial rampart. The origin of these ridges is generally known to be from expansion of the ice upon the lakes in winter. Boulders lying in shallow water are frozen into the ice and pushed a very small distance each year toward the shore. This is repeated through centuries at the varying stages of the water, till the materials of these ridges, gathered from the lake-bed, have been piled along its margin. Such accumulations were noted at the east side of Dean lake in Rockford; at the north side of Buffalo lake; and about Howard lake, west of which the road runs about a half mile upon a ridge of this origin, five to six feet high and three rods wide, composed of gravel and sand, so ancient that it is covered with the same dark soil which generally forms the surface of this region.

The shores of the lakes of Wright county mostly have very gentle slopes, which are continued beneath the water's surface. The basin of Pelican lake is of this kind. Less frequently the shores have been worn away by the waves, and form bluffs ten to twenty feet high. Examples of such erosion are seen on the north-west side of Buffalo lake. Here, and usually at the foot of similar banks beside lakes, a pavement of large and small boulders extends several feet above the water. About a mile west of Buffalo this margin of boulders, some of them six feet in

diameter, lying at the foot of the bank undermined by the lake is quite noticeable in comparison with the usual scarcity of such rock-fragments. Most of these were contained in the mass of till that has been washed away at this place. A few of them may have been added from the lake-bed by the expansion of ice, which has pushed back to the receding shore the boulders of the whole area upon which the lake has encroached, eroding its border of till.

**Topography.** Nearly all of Wright county is included in the morainic belt which extends from the Leaf hills south and southeast to this county and thence southward into Iowa, where it bends in a loop like the letter "U," thence taking a northwestern course along the Coteau des Prairies in southwestern Minnesota and eastern Dakota. It is well known that this long, looped moraine marks the sides and termination of a great lobe or tongue of the ice-sheet, and that it was contemporaneous with the Kettle moraine, which Professors Chamberlin and Irving traced in a similar looped course across Wisconsin in the geological survey of that state.

These hills within the limits of Wright county seldom exhibit the singularly rough, broken, and irregular contour, which may be called the typical development of a terminal moraine. They yet are very different from the gently undulating smooth area, a hundred miles wide, which lies next southwest, between this belt and the Coteau des Prairies. In contrast most parts of Wright county consisting of hills forty to seventy-five and sometimes one hundred or one hundred fifty feet high. These in nearly all cases have only moderate slopes, seldom rising abruptly or having a notably broken contour. No well-marked uniformity in trend is perceptible, though upon the average these elevations are more prolonged from north to south or northwest to southeast than in the opposite direction. In respect to material there is little difference between the swells and hills of this county, or even the more roughly outlined Leaf hills, and the smoothed, slightly undulating expanse that stretches southwest from this moraine to the Coteau, all being the unstratified glacial drift, called till or boulderelay, inclosing or rarely overlain by comparatively small deposits of modified drift, that is, water-deposited gravel, sand, or clay. The till usually contains, however, a much greater proportion of boulders upon its morainic belts than on its smoother areas.

The most conspicuous hills in this county occur at two points near the Mississippi, about two miles south of Clearwater, and about the same distance southeast of Monticello. These rise one hundred to one hundred fifty feet above the surrounding land. Another notably hilly area is the region for five miles northwest of Crow river, from its mouth to Rockford and Delano. These

hills are more massive, but of less altitude than the foregoing, rising seventy-five to one hundred twenty-five feet above the river.

In the east part of Silver Creek township, a very rough area of till reaches north to the river-road in section 14, a mile south-east from the mouth of Silver Creek. It forms hills fifty to seventy-five feet high, averaging fifty feet above the plains of modified drift at each side. The most uneven contour seen anywhere in Wright county is found in crossing this tract from Silver lake to Lake Ida, where the surface is as rough and irregularly thrown up in a profusion of knolls, hillocks and ridges as it is commonly in the most broken portions of the most typical morainic deposits. These accumulations are coarsely rocky till, and apparently include but little modified drift. The course and trend of the elevations are very irregular, and no prevailing direction or parallelism is noticeable.

The contour about Buffalo is in gentle swells fifty to seventy-five feet high. These continue northwest and west through Maple Lake, Chatham and Albion, and southwest to Waverly and Howard lake. These swells are round or irregular in form, trending in various directions. North of Cokato, massive, gently sloping hills rise forty to seventy-five feet or rarely one hundred feet above Cokato lake. The same rolling surface prevails northward through the west half of French lake township, and also extends westward into Meeker county.

Stockholm, at the southwest corner of the county, and most of Victor, the township next east, are moderately rolling, the height of the swells decreasing from thirty to forty feet at the west to only ten or twenty feet at the east. From Smith lake to Waverly the south boundary of the hilly area is on the north side of the railroad, and the tract beginning here and extending southeastward to the south line of the county, including the east part of Victor, Woodland, and the southwest part of Franklin, is only slightly undulating or nearly level. It is, however, mainly composed of till, like the hilly land northward.

With this exception, the only extensive level areas found in Wright county are those of modified drift which occur along the Clearwater and Mississippi rivers, consisting in large part, especially along the Mississippi, of natural prairies. The topography of these tracts, and the erosion which has been accomplished by the Mississippi river and its tributaries, will be again and more fully spoken of in describing the glacial and modified drift of this county.

The height of the Mississippi river along the northern boundary of this county, as determined by the United States engineer corps, under the direction of Capt. Charles J. Allen, is, at Clearwater, 938 feet above the sea; at the head of Bear island, about one mile east from the mouth of Silver creek, 924; at Monticello,

893; at Elk River, 853; and at Dayton, 843 feet. The river-shore at Dayton is the lowest land of Wright county. Its highest land, in Middleville, Cokato, Stockholm, and Victor, its southwestern townships, and the tops of the prominent hills mentioned near Clearwater and Monticello, are about 1,100 feet above the sea. Crow river, at the junction of its north and south branches, has an elevation of about 900 feet; and the south branch of this river, where it enters Wright county, is approximately 915 feet above the sea. At the west line of the county, the heights, above the same level, of both the north branch of the Crow river and Clearwater river are estimated to be about 1,000 feet.

Estimates of the mean heights of the townships of this county are as follows: Otsego, 925 feet above the sea; Monticello, 960; Frankfort, 940; Buffalo, 975; Rockford, 940; Franklin, 960; Silver Creek, 1,000; Maple Lake, 1,020; Chatham, 1,000; Marysville, 975; Woodland, 1,010; Clearwater, 1,020; Corinna, 1,020; Albion, 1,025; Middleville, 1,000; Victor, 1,040; South Side, 1,030; French Lake, 1,025; Cokato, 1,040; and Stockholm, 1,075. From these figures, the average elevation of Wright county is found to be 1,000 feet, very nearly, above the sea.

**Soil and Timber.** All portions of Wright county have a very fertile soil, blackened by decaying vegetation to a depth that varies from one to three feet. Fully nine-tenths of its whole area are adapted for cultivation, the only exceptions being the frequent sloughs, very steep knolls or hillocks which occur rarely, and the abrupt bluffs, twenty to fifty and rarely seventy-five or one hundred feet high, which border the creeks and rivers and were formed by their erosion. The generally undulating and rolling surface has sufficient slopes to give excellent drainage. The water produced by snow-melting in spring is thus speedily carried off, permitting seed to be sown early; and damage by excessive rains is prevented. The rainfall is usually quite uniformly distributed through the successive seasons of spring, summer, and autumn; and from it the somewhat porous soil, which is the glacial and modified drift, readily absorbs the moisture needed by growing crops. The water of wells and springs in this region is commonly charged with the carbonates of lime and magnesia dissolved from the drift through which it has filtered. Though this does not impair its excellence for drinking and cooking purposes, it is rendered less desirable than rain-water for use in washing with soap. The pulverized limestone in the drift, which thus makes the water that soaks through it hard, is one of the most useful elements of the soil for the production of wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and hay, which, with dairy products and stock, are the chief agricultural resources of this district.

The "Big Woods" covered nearly the whole of Wright county. The only exceptions to this, before its settlement and the conse-



quent clearing away of much of the timber to make farms, were Clearwater prairie, three miles long and one to two miles wide; Sauborn's or Moody's prairie, in Silver Creek; Monticello prairie, six miles long and three miles wide, including the portion of this which is commonly called West prairie, lying northwest of Otter creek; small areas of modified drift in Otsego, all the foregoing being portions of the valley drift of the Mississippi; a few small tracts bordering Crow river, as Butler and McAlpine prairies; and Mooers' prairie, south of Cokato, three miles long and about a mile wide. The last-named prairies are undulating and in part even hilly, and consist mainly of till or unmodified drift. On Mooers' prairie the hills rise in moderate slopes, thirty to sixty feet high. To these tracts are also to be added the numerous small sloughs, covered by marsh-grass, valuable for hay, and also the many small natural meadows, which are scattered here and there throughout the wooded area. Though the principal prairies of this county are modified drift, it is yet to be noted that considerable portions of this formation, bordering the Clearwater and Mississippi rivers at the north side of the county, are covered by a natural forest. This is the case with large tracts of modified drift adjoining Clear lake and reaching from it southwest to Sylvia lake and east to Sugar lake, as also with much of the northwest part of Silver Creek township.

At least nineteen-twentieths of this county was once wooded. The greater part of this area was thick and heavy timber. The two species of trees which were usually most plentiful and largest were the white or American elm and the bass. Next in the estimated order of abundance are bur oak, ironwood, red or slippery elm, white and black ash, box-elder, black oak, the American aspen or poplar, and the large-toothed aspen, generally common; sugar maple and red or soft maple, mostly occurring in groups; wild plum, black cherry, June berry, balsam, poplar, and willows, plentiful in many places; tamarack, common in swamps; hackberry, white oak, butternut, and canoe or paper birch, less frequent; bitternut, cottonwood, and red cedar, rare.

Among shrubs the most common species are hazel-nut, prickly ash, Virginia creeper, climbing bitter-sweet, frost grape, sumachs, meadow-sweet, choke cherry, thorn, wild roses, bush cranberry, black currant, prickly and smooth gooseberries, high blackberry, and black and red raspberries.

### GEOLOGICAL STRUCTURE.

The only formation found in this county which can be referred to a date older than the glacial period consists of beds of sand and gravel, some layers of which have been cemented, apparently by the deposition of carbonate of lime from percolating water, so that they have become sandstone and conglomerate, nearly as

compact and hard as the most indurated rocks. These were at first thought to be portions of the drift, cemented since their accumulation, but it seems possible that they may instead be Cretaceous, being perhaps of the same age with the Cretaceous sandstone that outcrops in the Minnesota valley, in Courtland, Nicollet county, eight and eleven miles southeast of New Ulm.

Two localities of this rock are exposed in Wright county, one being on the Crow river, and the other on its North branch. From the bridge east of St. Michael's, crossing the Crow river between Frankfort and Hassan, a conspicuous outcrop of it is seen in the left or northwest bank of the river, about twenty-five rods of this bridge. The bank here is some twenty-five feet high, and the cemented layer is in place near its top, from which position pieces five to ten feet in extent have fallen down and lie at or below the river-shore. This stratum of sandrock is three to five feet thick, nearly horizontal, of gray color, and was seen well exposed at two points some twenty-five feet apart. It is made up mainly of sand, with abundant fine gravel-stone, seldom so large as a half inch in diameter, but sometimes one and a quarter inches in diameter. Its lower portion incloses a layer of dark, iron sand, one foot thick. The bank fifty feet farther west is thirty feet high, and appears to be composed wholly of stratified sand and gravel, having pebbles up to two or three inches in diameter. Three hundred feet east from the exposure of the sandrock or conglomerate, the bank or bluff of the river is fifty feet high, but exhibits no clear section. A well at the top of this bluff went twenty feet through "quicksand," then a foot or two through "an iron hardpan," then through "clay," to a total of forty-four feet, where water was struck and rose immediately eight feet. This iron layer, which is partly black, is seen also in the adjoining bluff, and probably corresponds to the layer of dark, ferruginous sand in the conglomerate. The cemented stratum is more or less exposed along an extent of thirty or forty rods, having a slight dip eastward which carries it in this distance from the height of twenty feet down to the river's edge. It has been somewhat quarried for use in underpinning. Numerous specimens collected near this place by C. L. Herrick, from other low outcrops of the same formation, in the southeast bank of the river south of the bridge, are rather fine, gray, quartzose sandstone, containing no intermixture of gravel.

Mr. Herrick reports the discovery of a second locality of this rock in section 8, Middleville, where its outcrop rises only two feet above the north branch of the Crow river. This is a gray sandrock, mostly made up of fine quartzose particles, the greater part of which are white or gray, while some appear to be dull red jasper. It contains also a small proportion of granite and other pebbles, up to three-quarters of an inch, but mostly less

than one-quarter of an inch, in diameter. This locality is about twenty-five miles west of that before described at the east side of Frankfort. No other exposures of this rock, or of any formation, excepting the ordinary deposits of the drift, were observed by Mr. Herrick in a boat journey along the North branch and the Crow river, from Forest City in Meeker county to the mouth of this stream at Dayton.

**Glacial and Modified Drift.** Wright is covered to an undetermined depth, probably averaging more than a hundred feet, by drift. The sections exhibited by streams and wells prove this mantle of drift to be so deep that the scientist may safely attribute the generally hilly surface to movements of the ice-sheet which spread its deposits in unequal thickness. It has been shown that this area was at the east border of a great segment of the ice-sheet; and these masses of drift pushed up into hills, inclosing frequent lakelets, are found to be part of a very extended series of similar or yet more irregularly hilly deposits, which were accumulated by the slow current of the ice along its fluctuating margin. By numerous short retreats and readvances, these terminal deposits were spread over an area from twelve to twenty miles wide; but only very rarely in this county was the ice-front so long in one place or so loaded with drift as to heap up very abrupt and high, roughly-outlined hills, like those which make the most conspicuous parts of this formation.

**The Moraine.** The moraine occupies all this county except the nearly level area of till southeast from Smith Lake and Waverly and the areas of valley drift along Clearwater river and the Mississippi. Its topographic features have already been sufficiently described. The material of which it is composed is mainly till, or a mixture of boulders, gravel, sand and clay, confusedly blended in one unstratified mass. The principal ingredient is always clay, or very finely pulverized rock, unctuous and tenacious, giving this deposit sufficient cohesion to remain as a vertical wall with little danger of falling during the process of excavation, as for a cellar or well. The proportion of rock-fragments is small, as compared with their usual abundance in the eastern states. Generally the till in New England contains twenty times as many rock-fragments as in Minnesota. Other names for this deposit are unmodified drift, boulder-clay, and hardpan.

In respect to color and hardness, considerable difference is perceptible between the upper and lower parts of the till. To a depth that varies from ten to twenty-five or thirty feet, it has a yellowish color, because its iron has been changed from the protoxide to hydrous sesquioxide or limonite, by weathering, that is, by exposure to the air and percolating water. Its iron is mainly in protoxide combinations as silicate or carbonate, or it is in the form of pyrites. At greater depths the till of central and western



Minnesota is dark and usually bluish. Further oxidation and hydration of this iron in the upper part of the till changes it to limonite, with a yellowish brown color that is very effective to impart its hue to the whole deposit, of which, however, it constitutes only a small percentage. When this disseminated ore of iron is deprived of the combined water, changing it from limonite to hematite, as occurs frequently in brick-burning, it imparts a deep red hue. In the more common cream-colored bricks of this region, the iron is usually present in as great amount, but, through the influence of carbonate of lime in the clay, is chemically combined as a silicate and has no important coloring effect. The difference in hue of the till appears thus to be brought about by causes operating since its accumulation, which are still sending this zone of chemical change farther below the surface.

The distinction in hardness between the upper and lower till seems, on the other hand, to be due to unlike conditions in its formation. Usually at the same depth with the change of color, a similarly sudden and equally definite change is noted in the hardness of the till, which below is much more compact and hard than above. Often the difference is such that the cost of excavation in the lower till is twice as great as in the upper till. This change is frequently found very well-marked at an exact and definite line, which is believed to mark the top of the till which lay beneath the ice-sheet and was subjected to its immense pressure, while the upper till was contained in the ice-sheet and dropped loosely when this was melted away. Because of the greater compactness and very impervious character of the lower till, the discoloration of weathering has been quite commonly limited to the upper till.

**Fossiliferous Beds.** Fossiliferous beds inclosed in till have been observed at numerous places in Minnesota; but no examples of this are known in Wright county. The beds of stratified drift which occur beneath or inclosed between sheets of till, may have been deposited like the valley drift along the Mississippi, that is by the waters discharged from the melting of an ice-sheet, after which they have been covered by the till of a later glacial advance; or they may be the deposits of subglacial streams, during a period when this region was deeply buried by ice. The former explanation seems to be demanded by the thicker of these stratified beds under till, while the latter was probably true of many thin water-bearing veins of gravel and sand, which may be the tracks of sub-glacial torrents.

**The Boulders of the Drift.** The boulders of the drift in Wright county are principally granite, syenite, and gneiss. Fragments of quartzite, similar to that near New Ulm and referable to the Potsdam age, occur rarely. Boulders of magnesian limestone are so common that they are collected for lime-burning, perhaps



making up a twentieth part of the rock-fragments that exceed one foot in diameter. This rock is a much more abundant ingredient of the gravel in the till and modified drift, and of the recent beach-formations of the lakes. The proportion of limestone pebbles at the northwest side of Howard lake and at the south side of French lake, is about one-third of all. The largest boulder of this stone noted in an examination of Wright county was beside the road in or near the northwest quarter of section 17, French Lake. The amount exposed measured seven by four by one and a half feet in dimensions, perhaps an equal amount being buried. The surface of this block showed a section of large gasteropod shell, probably a *Maclurea*, seven and a half inches in diameter. The source of this limestone, forming a part of the glacial drift which here has been transported from the northwest, is believed to be the formations that outcrop near Winnipeg in Manitoba and along the west side of Lake Winnipeg.

**Lignite Deposits.** Fragments of lignite, an imperfectly formed coal, have been often encountered in digging wells in this county, and in some places have been found in such abundance in the beds of streams as to excite the hope that workable beds of coal might be discovered by proper search. These pieces are from thin layers of lignite in beds of Cretaceous age, such as have been found at several points near Richmond in Stearns county, which borders this on the northwest, as also near Redwood Falls and Fort Ridgely, and on the Cottonwood river. Some of these lignite-bearing deposits have been plowed up by the ice-sheets, and now form part of the glacial drift, in which through all southwestern Minnesota, fragments of this coal occur sparingly, being usually only from one to three inches in diameter. A well or cellar sometimes yields a half dozen or more of such lumps, but oftener contains none or only one or two. None of the pieces found are of such dimension as to show that they were part of any thick coal-seam; and it appears very improbable, judging from the small quantity of coal thus occurring in the drift, and from the character of the Cretaceous beds which have been explored in the localities before mentioned, that any valuable deposits of this lignite exist in Minnesota. Respecting this and other Cretaceous contributions to the drift, Prof. Winchell writes, on page 43 of his Sixth annual report, as follows:

“Information having been received from Hon. William Pfaender of the existence of some evidences of coal in Wright county, an examination was made of the designated localities. On section 33, township 119, range 25, land of John Marth and Fred Wanderzee, along the north branch of Crow river, pieces of Cretaceous lignite have been found in considerable quantities; also, along a creek, section 25, township 119, range 26, on land of Joseph Plant. These are all flat pieces, exactly similar to what

have been found in numerous other places, though perhaps more abundant. An examination was made in company with John Marth, of Delano. The banks of the streams are composed entirely of drift, and largely of blue hardpan. The lignite was seen in the bed of the creek, having been most observed at or near fording places, where it was most likely to be brought to the surface and seen by passing travelers. At no point could any Cretaceous beds be seen 'in situ.' Along the stream are numerous pieces of slate, or fissile shale, likewise derived from the Cretaceous, though here immediately from the hardpan drift. It is possible that Cretaceous beds would be struck below the drift, in sinking a shaft."

**Explorations for Coal.** Professor Winchell, in his fifth annual report for the year 1876, describes a former project for coal-mining, as follows: "Seventeen years ago there was some excitement in the vicinity of Dayton over a reported discovery of coal, about two miles west of the village, in Wright county, by a man named Charles Williams. Upon visiting the place, the excavation was found to consist of two shafts sunk in the drift, now nearly filled. About the place the drift thrown out shows nothing but drift clay with pebbles of all kinds and colors. One shaft is said to have been about eighty feet deep. The general belief now is that all the coal that was 'found' was brought for the purpose from St. Paul, as the owner, after vainly attempting to sell his land, placed a heavy mortgage on it and abandoned the country, allowing the sale of the land for the mortgage. There is certainly now no evidence of the existence of coal, or lignite, in the vicinity, though there are traces of the Cretaceous in the drift which point to the near proximity of its layers. There is also a reported exposure of 'slate' in a ravine a mile or so beyond, but it could not be found." The occasional occurrence of fragments of lignite in the drift has been noticed on a preceding page.

**Typical Till Exposures.** A very instructive section in the till is exposed in the right or east bank of the Crow river at Dayton, between the dam and the upper bridge. This section is about 500 feet long and from thirty-five to fifty feet high. On the left the till reaches to the surface and its upper one to two feet form the black soil, below which it has a yellowish color to a depth of fifteen feet, and is then directly underlain by reddish gray till, except that a layer of coarse ferruginous gravel, one foot thick, intervenes at their junction. The same yellowish upper till is cut fifteen feet deep for the road at the north end of the upper bridge, about three hundred feet west from the northwest end of this section. There it shows in some portions an indistinct lamination, which was doubtless produced in its deposition from the ice-sheet, probably through the influence of the water set free

by its melting. Southeastward in the section here shown, the yellow upper till thins out to nothing in a distance of 300 feet. A little farther on, it is seen again and attains a thickness of ten feet near the southeast end of this section. For the hundred feet at the northwest this till is covered only by the soil. Through the remainder of the section a layer of yellow sand, mostly from five to ten feet in thickness, overlies the yellow till. Next below this yellow upper till, throughout most of the section, is a deposit of dark bluish till, from thirty to thirty-five feet thick, like that which occurs generally throughout all southwestern Minnesota. Next below the last is the reddish gray till, which was noted at the northwest end of the section. There the thickness exposed of this lowest till is about seventeen feet; elsewhere it is partly covered by the talus which has crumbled from the bank above; but at one place it was very plainly seen rising in a broadly rounded mass ten feet above the river-level. Professor Winchell has noticed this section on page 165 of his fifth annual report, and mentions that the blue till contains "many fragments of Cretaceous slate, siderite, iron concretions (covered with gravel and cemented by iron-rust), granitic pebbles, and (Devonian?) limestone masses which have supplied a great deal of quicklime, and an occasional large granite boulder." The underlying red till has "a great many small greenstone and quartzite stones, and but few that are large, also many granitic stones."

On the north side of the Mississippi river, one and a half miles west of Otsego village, and about seven miles northwest from Dayton, the river-bank newly undermined along a distance of an eighth of a mile, having a height of fifty or sixty feet, consists of red till for all its lower half, while its upper half is yellow drift. A few miles farther west, David Bagley's well, in section 16, in the east edge of Monticello township, found the following deposits of drift in descending order: soil and yellow till, seven feet; sand, twelve feet; very hard, red till, thirty-one feet; and quicksand, four feet, in which the well stopped, at a total depth of fifty-four feet. Water is found in this quicksand, but does not rise above it.

Eastward from Monticello and Dayton, to the Saint Croix river, and to Minneapolis and St. Paul, the blue (or superficially yellow) till and the red till continued together, the latter underlying the former, which gradually thins out; and farther east, and northeast to Lake Superior, only the red till is found. These deposits were quite fully described in the Fifth annual report of this survey, pages 156 to 174, and in the Sixth report, pages 84 to 87. The conclusion there announced is that the red till is the deposite of an earlier glacial epoch than the blue till which overlaps it. Another explanation is admissible and seems to be required by the distribution of these tills; for, while the red till

covers the northeast part of this state and the most of Wisconsin, the blue till is found everywhere upon the western two-thirds of Minnesota and in Dakota to the limit of the drift.

Climatic conditions can hardly be supposed to have existed which should be capable of first producing an ice-sheet over the northeast part of the state only, and afterward in another glacial epoch forming a similar ice-mantle spread only upon the west half of the state. Professor Chamberlin, in his reports as state geologist of Wisconsin, demonstrated that the ice-sheet was partially divided at its front into vast tongues or lobes, each of which had its center current in the course of its longer axis, while the marginal ice-flow was everywhere perpendicular toward its terminal edge. The presence of two such lobes of the ice-sheet upon Minnesota is indicated by the course of our terminal moraines, and affords an adequate explanation of the occurrence of these diverse kinds of till in the northeast and the west parts of the state, as also of the portion of one of them overlying the other. The ice-lobe that moved outward from the region of lake Superior toward the southwest spread a till derived in large part from red shales, sandstones and quartzite, colored by the anhydrous peroxide of iron, or hematite. The coloring power of this ore of iron, though it is only a proportionately small ingredient of these beds and of the drift, is sufficient to give a red or reddish gray hue to the drift wherever a considerable part of it has been obtained from this source, even when, being pulverized by the glacial grinding, it has become mingled with much material from other formations.

Western Minnesota was overspread by another ice-lobe whose current moved from the region of Lake Winnipeg to the south and southeast. Its drift was gathered from granitic and sedimentary rocks which have their iron mostly in protoxide combinations; and hence its color, below the weathered upper portion, is dark bluish.

During the last glacial epoch, and perhaps in those preceding, it appears that these two lobes and opposing currents of the ice-sheet met upon the area lying between Dayton and St. Paul. The current from the northeast reached to the farthest limit at which the red till occurs, which is in northeastern Wright county, if we except the few localities described in the report of Big Stone and Lac qui Parle counties, in the west part of this state and the east edge of Dakota. Afterward, a change of climatic conditions, probably by bringing an increased snow-fall at the northwest, caused the outflow of ice from that quarter to drive back the current opposed to it, until its blue till, derived from the northwest, had been spread over the edge of the red till. This overlapping of the drift deposits of the last glacial epoch, measured from west to east, that is, perpendicularly to the line of meeting



of these currents, varies from twenty to seventy-five miles. The red and blue tills are regarded, in this view, as mainly contemporaneous and similar in their formation, the northeast and the west parts of the state being covered by lobes of the ice-sheet which moved independently of each other. When the ice of the last glacial epoch had its greatest extent, or nearly so, these ice-currents were confluent upon this area, the outflow from the northwest finally pushing back that from the northeast.

The erosion affected by the Mississippi river along the northeast side of Wright county has been mostly in the stratified gravel, sand and clay of the valley drift, which at the close of the glacial period was swept into this depression by the floods discharged from the melting ice-sheet. A flood-plain was then accumulated which covered a width of five to ten miles or more, with an average slope southeastward of about three feet per mile. It was deposited in the same manner that additions are now being made to the bottomlands by the floods of spring, save that during the melting away of the ice-sheet similar high water existed through the whole summer. The flood-plain therefore rapidly increased in depth and extent, the material of which it was formed as well as the waters by which it was brought being both supplied from the departing ice. Remnants of this plain, high above the present bottomland, attest the great supply of sediment during the prevalence and withdrawal of the last ice-sheet, and the large amount of erosion that has been accomplished since then by the river acting under its present conditions. At Clearwater and Monticello the prairies called by these names are remains of this flood-plain, which extended with nearly equal height across the area now occupied by the river and its bottomland, to the similar high plains of modified drift on the northeast side of the Mississippi. The areas of the ancient valley drift that occur in Wright county are situated like bays on the side of the main valley, and have thus escaped excavation. The height of Clearwater and Monticello prairies is about seventy-five or eighty feet above the river. Sanborn's prairie, lying between these, is regarded as a part of the same descending plain of valley drift, though it is not bordered by equally distinct bluffs and terraces upon the side next to the river. This prairie and its adjoining wooded areas of modified drift are underlain at a small depth by till, the coarsely rocky boulder-clay or hardpan, which appears at the bridge across Silver creek on the river-road. The till rises so high along the river here that all of the overlying gravel and sand have been eroded. Where the modified drift extends deeper, it has been sculptured by the river in terraces and bluffs. Monticello village is situated on such a terrace, thirty-five to forty feet above the Mississippi, intermediate between the bottomland and the Monticello prairie.

In the distance from Clearwater to Dayton, the Mississippi

descends forty-nine feet. Its flood-plain of modified drift, deposited during the melting of the ice-sheet, had a somewhat more rapid slope, declining in its height southeastward to forty-five feet above the present river at Dayton, and to twenty-five or thirty feet at the head of the falls of St. Anthony. On the north-east side of the Mississippi river, adjoining Wright county, the valley drift covers a wide tract, reaching beyond the Elk river, which for an extent of about thirty miles lies only two to five miles distant from the Mississippi, flowing nearly parallel with it.

Crow river and its north and south branches in this county have effected comparatively little erosion. At Dayton and in many other places along this river, it has undermined bluffs of till which extend from a few rods to a fourth or a half mile. A little more than a mile east of St. Michael's, in Frankfort, this erosion shows a fresh section of till, seventy-five to one hundred feet high, its upper twenty-five feet being yellowish and all below dark bluish. Such bluffs, however, are only of short extent, and in general this river has no definite line of continuous bluffs inclosing it on either side. Instead, the stream is bordered by undulating lowland, usually till, of varying width up to one mile, and rising in this distance to a height from thirty to fifty feet above the river. Some portions of this valley have doubtless been filled with fluvial deposits at the close of the glacial period or since that time, bridging glacial hollows, which must otherwise produce lakes in the river's course, but with these exceptions no deposits of modified drift are found; so that this valley is very unlike that of the Mississippi, which was filled deeply with stratified gravel and sand.

**Water Powers.** In 1881, the following water powers had been used in Wright county: Dayton flouring mill, on the Crow river at Dayton; owned by Weizel & Hurlbut; five runs of stone; head, about seven feet. At Hanover: on the Crow river, about nine miles southwest from Dayton; head, about seven feet. At Rockfort: on the Crow river; a woolen mill; head, eight feet. In Middleville: two powers, on the north branch of the Crow river. In Cokato: a grist-mill, at the mouth of Cokato lake, on its outlet. On the west part of section 22, French Lake: a sawmill on the north branch of the Crow river; head, eight feet. Monticello mills on Otter creek, three-quarters of a mile northwest from Monticello; owned by Janney & Sons: three runs of stone for flour, and one for feed; head, sixteen feet. On the Clearwater river, at Clearwater, are three powers, as follows: Thomas Tollington's sawmill and furniture manufactory, ten or fifteen rods above the mouth of the river; head, five feet; can only be used when the Mississippi is at its low-water stage. Clearwater flouring mills; a short distance above the last; owned by C. F. Davis & Co.; head, fifteen feet. Upper dam of C. F. Davis & Co.; one

mile above the mouth of the Clearwater river; known as the Fremont water-power; formerly, but not now, used; head, twelve feet. At Fair Haven: on the Clearwater river; head, about ten feet.

### UNDERGROUND WATERS

**Surface Features.** Wright county may be divided into three physiographic provinces—(1) the irregular morainic tract occupying most of the county, (2) the gently undulating area lying in the south-central part, and (3) the level plain bordering Clearwater and Mississippi rivers along the northern margin of the county. The Mississippi has cut a narrow gorge into this plain, and its tributaries have accomplished a small amount of erosion, but the surface of the county is still imperfectly drained and remains covered with numerous lakes and swamps.

**Surface Deposits.** There are two distinct types of bowlder clay, the blue and the red. The red clay occurs chiefly in the northeastern part of the country, but has been found as far southwest as Waverly. Where both are present the blue lies above the red. The red is apparently derived from the rocks in the Lake Superior region, and the blue comes for the most part from the Cretaceous formations to the west. These two varieties of drift have been discussed by the state geologists, N. H. Winchell and Warren Upham. In addition to the sand and gravel that is interbedded with the bowlder clay, extensive deposits lie at the surface, forming the level plain referred to above.

The glacial drift ranges in thickness from a scant layer to perhaps about 400 feet. It reaches its greatest development in the central and southwestern parts and is somewhat thinner in the northern and northeastern, but there are considerable variations within short distances. The following specific data will give some conception of the thickness in the different localities: (1) In the vicinity of Cokato depths of 150 to 300 feet have been reached without passing out of the drift; (2) in the village of Howard Lake one well is reported to have struck rock at a depth of 135 feet and several other in the same districts at depths of 170 to 218 feet, but on the other hand many wells in this region end in drift at depths of more than 200 feet; (3) at Waverly "rock" was encountered in one well at 190 feet below the surface, but in the mill well in the same village the drift deposit may be deeper; (4) near Delano (in the NE.  $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 24, T. 118 N, R. 35 W.) sandstone was found at a depth of 211 feet, but there are deeper wells in the locality which do not reach this formation; (5) in the Buffalo railway well 385 feet may be drift; (6) in the vicinity of the Mississippi river and Crow river, near its mouth, there are great and abrupt variations in the thickness of the surface deposits, the maximum probably being at least 300 feet.

**Yield of Water.** The numerous thick beds of sand and gravel provide ample and permanent supplies, and where they lie at the surface, as they do throughout a considerable section of this country, they commonly yield large quantities of water even to very shallow wells.

**Head of the Water.** Flowing wells are found in a number of localities and could without doubt be secured in other restricted tracts, such as stream valleys and depressions partly filled by lakes. The chances of obtaining flows are always best in low districts that lie close to high morainic belts.

In the following areas the water from the drift will rise above the surface: (1) Along the eastern and southern margins of Buffalo lake and on the low ground southwest of this lake, the supply coming from sand and gravel beds at various depths. In the village of Buffalo the water is lifted fully thirty feet above the level of the lake: (2) Along both branches of Crow river and some of their affluents. A number of scattered flowing wells with slight head have been obtained here, and probably many more could be had on the lowest ground bordering these streams. (3) On the west side of Cokato lake, north of the village. This is a small area, and the wells thus far drilled have not been more than 100 feet deep. Flows are also obtained from the surface deposits in the valley of the Mississippi.

**Quality of the Water.** The mineral constituents of the water from the drift consist chiefly of sodium, magnesium, and bicarbonates, only small amounts of sodium, potassium, sulphates, and chlorides being present. This water, therefore, has a considerable temporary hardness (which can in a large measure be removed by heating) but will not deposit much hard scale in boilers.

The water in this county is similar to that from the deeper portions of the drift farther west, but is less highly mineralized than the shallow drift water in that region. Thus far there is both a horizontal and a vertical variation in the composition of the water, the mineralization (especially the content of calcium, magnesium and sulphates) decreasing from west to east and from the surface downward.

**Cretaceous Rocks.** About fifteen miles beyond the northwestern edge of Wright county, in southern Stearns county, there is an exposure of shales etc. in which Cretaceous fossils have been identified, but it is not known that deposits of this age exist at any point within the county. Two outcrops of sandstone and conglomerate are described in the report of the state survey, one on Crow river east of St. Michael and the other on North Branch north of Howard Lake (sec. 8, township 119, range 27). The suggestion made by the state geologist that these may be Cretaceous in age, but there is no proof that they are so. It has already been mentioned that a number of wells in the vicinity of Howard Lake



and Waverly enter "rock." This rock, which appears from the drillers' description to be light-colored water-bearing sandstone, may be the same formation as that which forms the outcrops, but this, too, is uncertain. The blue shales encountered in drilling along the Mississippi are certainly not Cretaceous.

**Paleozoic and Older Formations.** Most of Wright county is underlain by stratified formations which are Paleozoic and perhaps in part pre-Paleozoic in age. Their combined thickness is probably great in the southeast, but much less in the northwest. Because of the dip of these strata and their apparent tendency to change in character and thickness from one locality to another, great caution is necessary in the interpretations of well sections.

In the vicinity of Elk river, a village situated on the opposite bank of the Mississippi, numerous deep wells have been drilled, and these show the stratigraphic succession below the surface deposits to consist of blue shale, white water-bearing sandstone, and red shale and sandstone nearly destitute of water. Both shale and sandstone are so hard that they do not require casing; in this respect they differ from most of the Cretaceous strata of southern Minnesota. The total thickness of the red elastic series is not known.

The same succession of blue shale, white sandstone, and red rock has been found in Monticello and at a number of points in the eastern extremity of this county. At Anoka drilling has gone to a depth of 420 feet without reaching the red elastic series; this fact indicates the general thickening of the overlying Paleozoic strata toward the southeast. Near Dayton, which is situated at the confluence of Mississippi and Crow rivers, sandstone was encountered in several wells at a depth of about 50 feet below the river level, and on the opposite side of the Mississippi limestone, which probably lies higher in the series, is reported 100 feet below the upland level.

At Buffalo the following section is reported for the railway well. The upper 386 feet is probably glacial drift. (The depth below the surface is given in parentheses.) Clay, 35 feet (35 feet); sand, 2 feet (37 feet); blue boulder clay, 245 feet (282 feet); sand, 37 feet (319 feet); quicksand, 6 feet (325 feet); sand and gravel, 31 feet (356 feet); sand and large stones, 30 feet (386 feet); clean sand, 9 feet (395 feet); sandstone, 158 feet (553 feet). These figures were taken by Joseph Greeninger, a well driller of Anoka.

Light-colored water-bearing rock, which was encountered in the southern part of the county, has already been alluded to as a possible Cretaceous formation.

Among such rock wells drilled in southern Wright county may be mentioned these owned and located as follows: J. Freden, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 24, township 118, range 25, 211 feet to rock, rock

penetrated nine feet. Doctor O'Hair, Waverly, 190 feet to rock, rock penetrated seven feet; Mart. Fleener, Howard Lake, 135 feet to rock, rock penetrated five feet; J. McKee, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 34, township 119, range 27, 218 feet to rock, rock penetrated seven feet; F. Birkholz, N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 27, township 118, range 27, 169 feet to rock, rock penetrated three feet; C. Dangers, S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 15, township 118, range 27, 170 feet to rock, rock penetrated three feet.

A few miles north of Wright county the granite rocks come to the surface and form numerous outcrops in Sherburne and Stearns counties; in Meeker county they have been encountered in several wells. These facts indicate that in the northwestern part of Wright county the granite is not far below the surface, but the depth probably increases rapidly toward the southeast.

**Yield of Water.**—The data given above show that water-bearing sandstone (perhaps belonging to more than one formation) occurs throughout the southeastern part of the county and may extend to the northwestern margin. It has been encountered at depths ranging from 80 to 400 feet and in all wells yielded generously. Neither the red elastic series, which lies beneath the white sandstone in the eastern part of the county, nor the granite, which may be reached in deep drilling in the northern part, is of any value as a source of water.

**Head of the Water.**—The sandstone will produce flows in the valley and on the lower terraces of the Mississippi but not on the uplands. In the village of Elk River the water is lifted about 60 feet above the river level, or 904 feet above the sea, and at Monticello it rises about 918 feet above sea level, a considerable height above the river.

**Quality of the Water.**—The water from the Paleozoic sandstone is not highly mineralized. Its chief constituents are calcium, magnesium and bicarbonates; in this respect it is similar to the water from the glacial drift.

**Buffalo.**—The village of Buffalo is picturesquely situated on the northeastern shore of Buffalo Lake. The glacial drift is here deep and contains several sand and gravel layers, from which the water rises above the level of the lake. The section given above shows that a thick stratum of water-bearing sandstone lies beneath the drift. The village has no system of public water-works.

**Delano.**—The glacial drift is here probably more than 200 feet deep. Below the drift there is believed to be water-bearing sandstone, but it has not been reached by drilling within the village. In the valley deposits of sand and gravel lie at the surface. The public supply is obtained from fourteen three-inch wells, whose stratigraphic section is as follows, the depth below the surface being given in parentheses: Sandy loam, 6 feet

(6 feet); blue clay, 13 feet (19 feet); sand (water first struck), 17 feet (36 feet); blue clay (containing sand and a little water), 4 feet (40 feet); coarse sand (impregnated with water), penetrated 10 feet (50 feet).

The water rises virtually to the surface and is drawn from all the wells by suction. Pumping at the rate of 250 gallons a minute for several hours continuously has thus far produced no noticeable effect. The water is only moderately hard, and will not deposit much hard scale in boilers. It is used at the pumping station, mill, and printing house, and altogether about 30,000 gallons daily is consumed. The railroad company takes water from the river. Many of the private wells are drilled and range between 50 and 150 feet in depth.

**Monticello.** The village of Monticello is situated on the south bank of the Mississippi river. The valley is narrow and nearly all the houses are built upon an elevated terrace. Alluvial deposits and glacial drift occur near the surface, beneath which lie the Paleozoic strata. The thick beds of sand and gravel, as well as the Paleozoic sandstone, yield large quantities of water. The well which furnishes the public supply is 8 inches in diameter and 237 feet deep. The water rises to a level 5 feet below the top of the well, which is about 30 feet above the river, or approximately 918 feet above the sea, and pumping at the rate of 275 gallons a minute for five hours continuously is reported to lower this level only 2 feet. The water is only moderately hard and will not form much hard scale in boilers. About 25,000 gallons is consumed daily, but most of the people still use water from private wells.

**Howard Lake.**—The glacial drift has a considerable thickness and contains water-bearing deposits of sand and gravel. Beneath the drift there is a light-colored water-bearing sandstone which is reported to have been penetrated at 135 feet below the surface, though generally occurring at a greater depth. The public supply is pumped from the lake without filtering, through an intake which is about 800 feet from the shore. This water has a relatively low total hardness, and is used by more than one-half of the people, approximately 25,000 gallons being consumed daily. The glacial drift and underlying rock will yield ample supplies of water that is only moderately hard.

**Cokato.**—Drilling to a depth of 185 feet at Cokato has revealed nothing but glacial drift, as is shown by the following section of a well at the canning factory: Yellow boulder clay and blue boulder clay, 78 feet; sand, thin (a little water); blue boulder clay, 50 feet; sand (impregnated with water), 2 feet; blue boulder clay, penetrated 55 feet.

It is altogether probable that there are other water-bearing beds at greater depths. The public waterworks are supplied from

a drilled well three inches in diameter and 125 feet deep, which ends with a screen in a bed of sand reported to be at least six feet thick. The water rises to a level about 45 feet below the surface or 1,020 feet above sea level. It is moderately hard but has not much permanent hardness. Most of the people use water from private drilled wells, none of which is much more than 100 feet deep. The well at the canning factory, which is supplied from the sand layer 128 feet below the surface, has been tested at fifteen gallons a minute. The head and quality of the water are similar to those of the village well.

**Waverly.** The following section for the well at Adam Berkner's flouring mill, which is the deepest well drilled in the locality about Waverly. Yellow and blue clay, 117 feet; "hardpan," 8 feet; yellow sand (impregnated with water), 85 feet; red clay, 215 feet; coarse yellow sand impregnated with water, entered 19 feet. The public waterworks are supplied from the lake, but all the people depend upon private wells, most of which are of the two-inch drilled type and have an average depth of about 125 feet.

**Farm Water Supplies.** The most common type of farm wells found in this region are the 2-inch or 2½-inch drilled wells. These range from about 40 to 300 feet in depth, their average depth being slightly more than 100 feet in the southern part of the county and somewhat less in the northern. Nearly all stop in the surface deposits and are finished with screens. In the south the screens are liable to become clogged after several years of service, but further north they seldom do. As a rule the water is harder in the southern than in the northern part and there appears to be a relation between the hardness of the water and the tendency of the screens to become incrustated.

Other types of farm wells are the driven, bored, or dug and drilled wells of larger diameter. In the past the bored and dug wells were the prevailing kind, but they are now being gradually replaced by the drilled types. Where 6-inch wells are not to be pumped faster than the rate at which a windmill operates, they can be successfully finished with open ends, thus obviating all difficulties with screens.

**Summary and Analysis.** The surface deposits contain large supplies of water that is only moderately hard, and in low areas they may give rise to flows with slight pressure. The southeastern part of the county, and perhaps the entire county, is underlain by water-bearing sandstone, which has been encountered at depths ranging from 80 to 400 feet, and which will usually yield large quantities of water of about the same hardness as that from the surface deposits. Near the Mississippi the water from this sandstone is under sufficient pressure to rise to a level about 900 feet



above the sea, and in the valley it will therefore be lifted above the surface.

The red elastic series and the granitic rocks, which occur at greater depths, are of no value as sources of water, and should not be penetrated in drilling.

## CHAPTER II.

### PRE-HISTORIC INHABITANTS.

**Nature's Paradise—The Coming of Man—The Eskimo—The Mound Builders—Purpose of the Mounds—Life and Habits of the Mound Builders—Location of the Mounds—Excavations and Discoveries—Relics.**

Scientists declare that in the Glacial period this region was several times covered with a great ice sheet at recurrent intervals. When for the last time the glacier receded it left behind what in a few years became a wonderfully diversified and beautiful region. Verdure took the place of glaring ice, and a forest, known as the "Big Woods," nearly covered Wright county, leaving here and there, however, stretches of prairie. Thus lay Wright county, beautiful and virgin; expanses of gently rolling prairies, in summer covered with grass and spangled with flowers; park-like oak openings, verdant swells of land studded with a sparse growth of oaks; dense forests of maple, oak, elm, linden and birch, poplar thickets and tamarack swamps, jungles of underbrush of hazel and dwarf beech, dwarf hickory, ironwood, alder, kinnikinic, as well as young trees of larger species, forming in some places almost as impenetrable a mass as the famous jungles of the Amazon, and finally, even in Wright, here and there a little guard of conifers, mainly white pine, outposts of magnificent forests of evergreens to the northeast. And this varied landscape was flecked and ribboned and jeweled by many a stream of water and by matchless blue and silver lakes. These waters, woods and prairies fairly quivered with animal life. The most notable early animal was the mammoth. From remains found, he seems to have been fairly plentiful in Minnesota. Later the leader in animal life was the American bison, generally known as the buffalo. In Wright county the most plentiful among the larger animals were the bears and the antlered animals, such as the deer and the elk.

A country so bountiful and inviting to man, whether primitive or civilized, would remain uninhabited only while undiscovered. At some period of the earth's history, mankind in some form took up its abode in what is now Wright county. How many ages distant that period was no one can tell. It is evident that man followed very closely the receding of the last glacier, if indeed

he had not existed here previous to that time. A discussion of the possibilities of the existence of man in Minnesota during Glacial, Inter-Glacial and Pre-Glacial ages is beyond the scope of this work. It has been made a special subject of study by several Minnesota savants, and many notable articles have been written concerning evidences that have been discovered.

Many scholars are of the opinion that in all probability the first inhabitants of the northern part of the United States were, or were closely related to, the Eskimo. While the data is very meagre, they all point that way. The Eskimos seem to have remained on the Atlantic seaboard as late as the arrival of the Scandinavian discoverers of the eleventh century, for their description of the aborigines whom they call "skrälingar" (a term of contempt about equivalent to "runts") is much more consonant with the assumption that these were Eskimos than Indians.

So possibly it is permissible to picture the first human inhabitants of Wright county as a small yellowish-brown skin-clad race, slipping around nimbly and quietly in the woods and dells, subsisting mainly on fish, but also partly on the chase. Their homes were doubtless of the simplest descriptions, and their culture not above absolute savagery.

The Eskimos seem to have followed more or less closely the edge of the last receding glacier. Whether they were forced out by a stronger race or whether they found the bleak shores of the Arctic seas more suited to their physical make-up than the fertile regions further south is only a matter of conjecture.

Scholars are of the opinion that the next inhabitants of Minnesota were tribes of the Siouan stock, in other words the ancestors of the present Sioux (Dakota) Indians. These peoples of the Siouan stock appear to have built the mounds of southeastern Minnesota. Possibly they lived in Wright county. These Siouan people were possibly driven out by the peoples of the Algonquin stock, whereupon they eventually took up their homes in the neighborhood of the upper valley of the Ohio river and possibly elsewhere. How many centuries they lived there it is impossible even to estimate. In the meantime the Algonquin peoples probably occupied the Minnesota region, and possibly Wright county. They did not make mounds. Some five hundred years ago the Siouan Mound Builders were driven out from their homes in the upper Ohio region where they had erected the mounds that are now the wonder of the world, and a part of them found their way to the homes of their ancestors in the upper Mississippi region. The mounds built here by these peoples were inferior to the ones built by their ancestors. In coming up the valley it is possible that these Mound Builders drove from the Minnesota regions the intruding Algonquins.

The Siouan Mound Builders, returning some five hundred years ago from the Ohio region were doubtless the builders of the mounds in Wright county, though there are possibly some mounds in this county built by the Siouan people during their previous occupancy of the region.

**The Mound Builders.** Not so many years ago, there was a wide-spread belief that the Mound Builders were a mysterious people of high culture resembling the Aztecs, and differing from the Indian in race, habits and customs. Now scholars are unanimous in their belief that the Mound Builders were merely the ancestors of the Indians, doubtless, as already related, of the Sioux Indians, and not differing from them in any important characteristic except in their tendency to erect earthworks. These Mound Builders are the earliest race of whose actual residence in Wright county we have absolute evidence. While Wright cannot boast of mounds of such gigantic proportions as some other parts of the United States, nor of such grotesque formations as the serpent mound of Ohio, yet the mounds of the county are plentiful in number, kind and distribution, and present a rich field for archaeological inquiry, as well as supplying evidence that Wright county was well populated by this ancient people.

The larger groups are invariably situated near the water-courses and lakes, and usually on the lofty terraces that give a commanding view of magnificent prospects. Such a distribution of the mounds finds its explanation in the fact that the lake and river banks afford excellent sites for habitations, and the lakes and rivers afford routes of travel in times of peace and war. Above all the streams and lakes furnish two substances absolutely necessary for the maintenance of life, namely water and food. The Mound Builder was not slow in picking out picturesque places as a location for his village sites. The distribution of the mounds bears ample proof of this. Anyone who visits the groups cannot fail to be convinced that the Mound Builders were certainly guided in the selection of the location for the mounds by an unerring sense of beautiful scenery and a high appreciation and instinctive love of nature as well as by other factors. A few of the smaller mounds in Wright county are found on the edges of the original prairies, but these probably served a somewhat different purpose than those nearer the water.

**Purpose of the Mounds.** The mounds of Wright county are both oblong and round, varying from a swell of land to several feet in height. Other varieties have also been found. The arrangement of mounds in the various groups does not seem to depend on any definite rule of order, but seems to result from a process of mound building, extending over a considerable period of time, each site for a mound being selected by the builders according to the space, material, or topography of the locality.

Undoubtedly each mound was placed for some definite purpose on the spot where it is found today, but what the purpose of any particular mound was may be difficult to say. The spade often partially tells us what we want to know, but sometimes it leaves us as much as ever in the dark. When the interior of a mound reveals human bones, then the inference is that the mound served as a tomb, but intrusive burials, that is burials made long after the mounds were built, complicate the problem. But when a mound can be opened without revealing any trace of human remains or of artificial articles, it seems safe to conclude that not all the mounds were built for burial purposes. The erection of such a large number of mounds as exist along the Mississippi and its tributaries in Minnesota must have required an enormous expenditure of time and labor. The tools with which all the work was done were probably wooden spades rudely shaped, stone hoes and similar implements which indicate a low degree of industrial culture. Where the whole village population turned out for a holiday or funeral, a large mound could be built in a much shorter time than if the work was performed by only a few individuals. The surface of the land adjoining the mounds in Wright county, and in fact all the mounds of this vicinity, frequently shows plain evidences of where the material was obtained for the construction of the mound. All in all, the regularity, symmetry and even mathematical exactness with which the mounds are built show considerable skill and taste. The reader can picture to himself the funeral scenes, the wailings of the sorrowing survivors, and the flames of the funeral pyres which were sometimes built. Or one can picture the mourning relatives waiting beneath the tree in which the body has been suspended on a scaffold while the elements are stripping the bones of flesh preparatory to their interment.

**Life and Habits of the Mound Builders.** Modern scientists unite in the belief that the Mound Builders were Indians, the ancestors of the Indians that the early settlers found here. The old theory of a race of Mound Builders superior in intellect and intelligence to the Indian has been exploded by archaeological research, though a few of the older text books advance the now obsolete theory.

The evidences that the race of Mound Builders was a race of genuine Indians are many. Indians are known to have built mounds. The articles found in the mounds are the same as the articles found on the Indian village sites nearby. Invariably a large group of mounds has nearby evidences of such a village. The articles found in the mounds and on the village sites are such as the Indians used.

We do not know what human beings first beheld the beautiful lakes and prairies of Wright county and claimed them as their



home. We may never be able to look beyond the veil or penetrate the mists that enshroud the history of the past, yet we are not left in utter darkness. The relics tell us many interesting stories.

Tomahawks, battle clubs, spear heads, and arrows signify war and the chase. The entire absence of great architectural remains show that the Mound Builders lived in frail homes. The dearth of agricultural implements speaks of the absence of any but the most primitive farming. Ash-pits and fireplaces mark the bare ground as the aboriginal stove. Net-sinkers imply the use of nets; ice axes the chopping of holes in the ice to procure water; stone axes a clumsy device for splitting wood; stone knives were for scalping, cutting meat and leather and twigs; countless flakes mark the ancient arrow maker's workshop; cracked bones show the savages' love for marrow; shell beads, charms and ornaments in the shape of fish and other designs reveal a primitive desire for ornamentation; chisels and gouges recall the making of canoes; sun-dried pottery made of clay mixed with coarse sand, clam shells or powdered granite and marked with rows of dots made with a stick, thumbnail or other objects, or else marked with lines, V-shaped figures or chevrons, all are an index of rather a crude state of pottery making. The hand supplied the lathe and the wheel.

All of these things tell us something of the habits and condition of the Mound Builders and are farther evidence that the Mound Builders differed in no important manner from the Indians found here by the early explorers.

The people were rude, semi-agricultural, war-like, ignorant of all metals except copper, hunters with stone arrow and spear, naked in warm weather and clothed with the skins of the buffalo and bear in winter. Their skill in art was confined to the making of such domestic utensils and such weapons of war and of the chase as were demanded for the personal comforts and physical necessities. They have left no literature, and these heaps of earth and a few rude pictures scraped in soft stones, together with a few crude relics, are our only source of information regarding this once powerful people.

**Location of Mounds.** The artificial mounds of Wright county have never been adequately surveyed or excavated, though many interesting studies have been made of them. A volume entitled "The Aborigines of Minnesota," published by the Minnesota State Historical Society in 1911, contains a valuable resume of these explorations and studies as follows:

Mounds on Crow river, near Dayton, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 1, T. 120-23. The land is cultivated about 30 feet above the river. This mound is 65 feet in diameter and 6 feet high. Surveyed April 28, 1887.

Mounds two miles west of Dayton, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 2, T. 120-23. These are five in number and in cultivated land over-

looking the river and about 35 feet above it. The largest is 70 feet in diameter,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high.

Crow river mounds, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , and N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 29, T. 119-24. Here are 16 mounds, about 18 feet above the river, of which only four are circular. The rest are simple elongated mounds about 20 feet in width and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. They present the anomaly that, while about parallel with each, they have their greater surface dimension running perpendicular to the line of the bluff on which they are situated, instead of parallel with it. The largest circular mound is 60 feet in diameter and 6 feet high.

Crow river mounds, S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 29, T. 119-24. This group numbers 4, of which one is elongated; 10 feet above the river. Surveyed July 13, 1887.

A solitary circular mound, 18 feet in diameter, is at N. W. cor. S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 29, T. 119-24. It is about 15 feet above the river.

Crow river mounds, one mile below Delano. Here are four mounds, of which one is elongated, parallel with the bluff. The largest circular mound is 45 feet in diameter and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. Another mound of this group is in the public road.

A single mound, on cultivated land, is opposite Delano, about 12 feet above the river. Some 12 or 15 other mounds have been destroyed. That which remains is 160 feet from the bank of Crow river.

At two miles above Delano, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 23, T. 118-25, are two mounds, and there may be others in the neighborhood.

Mouth of Pioneer creek, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 26, and N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 35, T. 118-25. Here are 26 mounds, mostly circular. The largest is also flat-topped, the base being 54 feet in diameter and the platform 20 feet. Its height is 7 feet. This mound also has two extensions, one of which is 24 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, and the other is 30 feet wide and 4 feet high. From the extremity of the second extension is another extension in the same direction, 21 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, 66 feet long. These two enlargements of the main mound extend northerly, at an angle with each other of about 45 degrees. The longer are 10 degrees to the west of north. One other circular mound also has an extension 20 feet wide, 1 foot high.

The most curious of this group is one which is square, with the corners at the magnetic points. The sides are 35 feet, the height 3 feet, and the top is 24 feet square. This group, therefore, presents four anomalies: 1. Extensions from a circular mound not on opposite sides of the mound, but forming an angle with each other of about 45 degrees. 2. An extension from an extension, the former having less width and height than the latter.

3. Square mound, with corners at magnetic points. 4. Flat-topped square mound. Surveyed Sept. 8, 1881.

Foster lake mounds, on N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 10, T. 120-23, 25 feet above the lake. Many of these are situated in a cultivated field, along a bluff that faces westward over the lake and over a marsh, through which passes a creek draining Foster lake. The total number is 33, of which only two are elongated. The largest is 68 feet in diameter and  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. It is not isolated from the line of the series. Surveyed April 28, 1887.

Two and a half miles northwest of Pelican lake exists a solitary tumulus, on N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 34, T. 121-25, in cultivated land. It is 35 feet in diameter and 3 feet high. There were seven or eight others within a quarter of a mile, which have nearly disappeared through cultivation. Surveyed August 8, 1891.

Buffalo Lake mounds. The tumuli are on lot 2, sec. 31, T. 120-25, on the bluff of the lake, east side, in the woods. The road passes between them. They are 30 feet above the lake and about 30 feet in diameter.

There is a large group, numbering twenty mounds, on the south side of the lake, of which the largest had been excavated, but is 75 feet in diameter and 15 feet high. They are 60 feet above the lake. Here are also three circular embankments 2 feet to 3 feet high. Of these two are united, but the other, which is 36 feet in diameter, is alone. Five of the mounds are elongated, and one is wider at the center than at the extremities, having three sections, the central section being some longer than the end sections. Surveyed November 16, 1886.

These circular embankments, having the same widths as the average circular mounds, and grouped with them, seem to be allied to the circular mounds. These embankments are from 6 feet to 8 feet across and from 2 feet to 3 feet high.

Another group is on the west side, W.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  (lot 5), sec. 35, T. 120-26, consisting of eight tumuli, of which the largest is 90 feet in diameter and 12 feet high. This greatly contrasts with the one alongside it, which is 12 feet wide and 1 foot high (the smallest mound yet noted).

According to the Delano "Eagle," of July 10, 1881, William P. Jewett opened a large mound in 1878, and at the depth of fourteen feet found ten or twelve skeletons. This was on sec. 35, and on the bank of Buffalo lake, on land then owned by Joseph Armstrong. Associated with this were four other mounds. The human bodies seem to have been buried in a circle, about five feet from the surface.

Three-quarters of a mile south of Buffalo lake, on N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 1, T. 119-26, is a group of twelve mounds, two of which are elongated. One of the tumuli, in the line of the group,

reaches 65 feet in diameter and  $7\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height. These are about 20 feet above the marsh. Surveyed November 16, 1886.

On the west side of Buffalo lake are five mounds in a group, on S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  (lot 6), sec. 35, T. 120-26; 60 feet above the water. One is 85 feet in diameter, 16 feet above the water. One is 85 feet in diameter, 16 feet high, and it is alongside of one which is 18 feet in diameter and 1 foot high.

Mounds of Lakes Ann, Mary and Emma. At the north end of Lake Ann, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 10, T. 118-27, about 15 feet above the lake, is a tumulus 20 feet in diameter near the road.

On lot 4 (S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) sec. 11, T. 118-27, north end of Lake Ann, are two tumuli, 30 feet in diameter, on cultivated land about 12 feet above the lake.

On the west side of Lake Ann, on lot 3 (N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ), sec. 15, T. 118-27, is a common tumulus about 25 feet above the lake, in a slight swale.

At the south end of Lake Ann, on lot 5 (S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ), sec. 14, T. 118-27, is a group of seven mounds, all circular, 25 feet above Lakes Ann and Emma.

On a creek near Lake Ann, on lot 4 (S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ) sec. 11, T. 118-27, are two mounds, the larger 30 feet in diameter and 2 feet high; the smaller 28 feet in diameter and 2 feet high, about 12 feet above the creek.

There are four large mounds half a mile south of Lake Ann, on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 23, T. 118-27. They are 40 feet, 42 feet, 48 feet and 50 feet in diameter, and 3 feet in height. There are five or more further to the southeast that have been cultivated too much to survey, situated on a slight ridge.

At the north end of Lake Mary, on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 25, T. 118-27, are two small tumuli, 22 feet in diameter and 1 foot high, 20 feet above the lake.

Along the Twelve-Mile creek, on the south and west sides of Lake Ann, secs. 15, 22 and 23, T. 118-27, are three groups of mounds. The first is on lot 4, sec. 23, and consists of 12 mounds, all circular except one, which is elongated, with dimensions 90 feet by 50 feet, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. Toward the north this is abruptly connected with a circular mound, which is 55 feet in diameter and 5 feet high, by a narrower embankment 30 feet wide and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The smallest mound of this group is 30 feet in diameter, and the largest is 55 feet. Three are 50 feet in diameter. Surveyed September 15, 1881.

A rare combination is witnessed in two of this group, viz.: An elongated mound is suddenly narrowed from 50 feet to 30 feet, and again expanded as suddenly into a circular mound, the length of the embankment being 16 feet, or about one-half of its width.



Another group on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 22, also embraces twelve mounds, and shows one rare feature, viz.: Two of the largest mounds, each 4 feet high, are connected by a short curving embankment 25 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. These two mounds have both been opened. This group of tumuli has an unusually large average diameter for the circular mounds.

A group on the opposite side of Twelve-Mile creek contains eight mounds, three being elongated, one 150 feet long, 20 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high; another 85 feet long, 40 feet wide, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high; and the third 80 feet long, 20 feet wide and 1 foot high. This group also presents an anomaly, viz.: a spur-shaped extension is connected with a circular mound running to a point. At the base it is 20 feet wide and 2 feet high. It is about 30 feet long. Surveyed September 15, 1881.

A solitary tumulus, 22 feet in diameter, is north of Lake Emma, S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 13, T. 118-27, about 22 feet above the lake.

Howard Lake Mounds. The mounds above this lake are isolated except in one case. A group of five tumuli is on the east side, lot 4 (N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  and N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ ), sec. 34, T. 119-27, near the lake, but in the woods, about twelve feet above the lake, all circular, mostly about 30 feet in diameter.

According to the Delano "Eagle," June 13, 1878, one of the mounds on the south side of Twelve-Mile creek, about three miles south of Delano, was explored by a party of young men. At the depth of five feet they found two human skeletons, the size of which indicated sons of Amalek. The bones were in the last stages of decay. One "thigh-bone measured 20 inches in length and was proportionately large. The teeth were still sound, and double all around, though not of large size, but worn flat from long use."—Hill Rec.

Two others are together, on the west side, lot 2, sec. 33, T. 119-27; 30 feet in diameter; 13 feet above the lake and 125 feet from it. One tumulus is on lot 1, sec. 33, at 150 feet from the lake and 15 feet above it. One is on the east side on lot 2, S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 27, T. 119-27; 20 feet above the lake; 25 feet in diameter. Another is on the same section, on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 34, T. 119-27; 16 feet above the lake; 30 feet from the bluff; 24 feet in diameter.

Clearwater lake mounds, W.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 12, T. 121-28, overlooking a ravine, on a high ridge, is a group of 47 circular mounds and embankments. The tumuli are generally small and low. Three are noticeably large, having diameters of 75 feet, 70 feet and 60 feet, with heights of 8 feet,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet, respectively. The elongated mounds or embankments are of the usual type, their width about the same as the diameter of the smallest mounds, i. e., 18 feet to 20 feet straight and of uniform

width from end to end. To this, however, there is one exception here, one embankment, tapering from a width of 20 feet at the north end to 10 feet at the southern, and from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet in height to 1 foot. This is an exceedingly rare feature. Two of the tumuli are connected by a low embankment much narrower than the mounds connected.

R. M. Van Dervort gave information concerning the exploration of a mound of this group about the year 1885. It rose 3 feet above the level of the surrounding ground. The opening was at the top, about 3 feet by 6 feet. The material consisted of alternations of ordinary black soil and hard, light gray, four of the latter, each about four inches thick. The bones were about three feet from the surface and consisted of six skeletons, each skeleton occupying a space about 18 by 30 inches, leg and arm bones being directly on top of the chest, and the skull on top of all. The bones were generally very brittle, but some were well preserved. The lower jaw-bones were large, the teeth, so far as found, all double, the brow considerably receding backward, thigh-bone 22 inches long, upper arm-bone 14 inches long. These bones were taken to Chicago by a doctor some five years after they were discovered. This was evidently a regular Sioux burial of bundled bones.

In the "Pioneer Press" of June 29, 1888, is an account of the discovery, twelve miles from Clearwater, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 21, T. 121-27, by Charles W. Pinkerton, of the town of Corinna, of the remains of seven persons said to have been from seven to eight feet high. They were found in a kind of mound, and were buried with their heads down. The skulls indicated an inferior race of men. The teeth in the jaw-bones were mostly sound, "and not like the teeth of the present race of men." In the "Pioneer Press" of July 1, 1888, was published a more satisfactory and correct account of this discovery, abstracted as follows: The mound itself is about 50 feet across and some 12 feet high, of symmetrical shape. According to Prof. H. F. Nachtrieb, who visited the place and examined the bones, the skeletons were not of unusual size. They were deposited in the mound in a sitting posture, facing the lake. The skulls, when compared with Indian skulls in the possession of Dr. Thomas S. Roberts, of Minneapolis, showed some marked differences. The forehead was very low, and the brow prominent. The postero-anterior axis of the skull was very long. Judging from the external auditory meatus, this prehistoric man had a large ear. His jaws were heavy, his cheek-bones prominent. The ridges on his arm-bones indicated that he was very muscular. His front teeth, instead of being chisel-shaped like those of modern man, had their greater diameter at right angles to the jaw-bone, and all his teeth were quite large, and some with the enamel perfectly preserved. On the whole, the skulls seemed to be quite small, in proportion to the rest of

the skeleton. The remains were evidently those of ancient mound-builders. The mounds were covered with a forest of large elms and maples.

Enclosure and mound, lot 2, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 21, T. 121-27. These are on the bank of the lake but about 200 feet from it. The mound is 62 feet in diameter and 8 feet high. The enclosure is toward the northeast from the mound, on a knob about 35 feet above the lake, the mound being 22 feet above the lake. The enclosure consists of an embankment 13 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, the ends coming near together, but leaving an opening 6 feet wide. Surveyed August 1, 1887.

On lot 5, N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 21, T. 121-27, at 40 feet above the lake and 450 feet south of it, is a group of six circular mounds and one elongated. The largest of the former is 80 feet in diameter and  $4\frac{1}{4}$  feet high. The elongated mound is of a rare type, tapering from 26 feet to 10 feet in width and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet to 1 foot in height in a length of 80 feet. Surveyed August 1, 1887. The following letter of E. E. Woodworth is of interest.

“St. Paul, Minn., May 31, 1907. In the year 1888, in company with Rev. Mr. Wigstead and my brother, Charles Woodworth, I opened a mound in Levi Dakin's field, cutting clear through it a ditch about eighteen inches wide and from top to bottom four and one-half feet deep, from north to south and from east to west. A peculiarity of formation was found. About two feet from the top surface was found a continuous layer of black material about four inches in thickness, which appeared to be earth mixed with some substance which rendered it impervious to water, as was evidenced by the perfectly dry earth below the layer. The soil above the layer was very wet, as it had rained the night before. When this substance was broken it presented occasionally small faces of shiny black. The material was very tough and resisted the pick like asphalt. About two feet below this layer was a second layer of the same substance, and a third layer was encountered perhaps not more than fourteen inches below the second layer. The earth had evidently been carried in receptacles which held about one-half bushel, as was evidenced by the different materials, as sand, clay or black soil. We found no bones, neither any cavities in this mound. Near the surface we found a stone ax weighing about five pounds, perfect except for a small spall from the face. In the woods just east of the field, perhaps ten rods from the mound which we opened in the field, were several mounds, the largest of which we dug into from the very top, making a hole five feet square and five feet deep, finding nothing until I was about to leave the hole. It was raining, and as we had nine miles to drive, and as it was nearly night, I caved the walls in, and in so doing opened a cavity on the west which was filled with dust. This I scraped out and we observed that

the cavity had the appearance of having been filled with blankets or hides rolled closely, or possibly a body. It was so dark we could not examine as fully as we wished to do. We did not find the peculiar impervious layers in this mound.—E. E. Woodworth."

On lots 3 and 4, N. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 18, T. 121-27, at 48 feet above the lake, is a series of eighteen tumuli and one elongated mound. The line of extension of this series is away from the lake bluff, and the larger mounds are out of the line, the largest being 70 feet wide and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. They begin at 60 feet from the lake bluff and 150 feet from the water. Surveyed July 2, 1887.

There is a solitary mound, 35 feet above the lake, 30 feet in diameter, at the center of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 13, T. 121-28.

Pleasant Lake mound, a solitary tumulus, is at the center of the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 24, T. 121-28; 28 feet in diameter; 50 feet above the lake.

Clearwater River enclosure. This is on N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 11, T. 121-28, at 35 feet above the river and 250 feet from it. This enclosure is of an oblong shape, with an opening of five feet at the east end. The embankment is 12 feet wide and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. A road passes across it. Its greatest dimension is 102 feet. Surveyed August 3, 1887.

Pulaski Lake mounds. Lot 3 of sec. 8, T. 120-25. Here is a group of fourteen mounds, of which five are elongated north and south, parallel with the direction of the series in which they lie; 30 feet above the lake. The largest circular mound is in the series, 65 feet by 7 feet. There are distinctly two sizes of the elongated mounds, viz.: 18 feet (or 20 feet) by 26 feet (or 30 feet), and 30 feet (or 35 feet) by 40 feet (or 45 feet). Surveyed September 10, 1881.

"A party from Monticello dug through the largest of these mounds. Many skeletons, buried in a horizontal position, one above another, were found, but it appears that no implements nor manufactured articles of any kind were discovered."—Upham, Geol. Sur. Rep., Vol. ii, p. 263.

Silver Lake mounds. The group, as it now remains, comprises seven tumuli, although a number of others, probably about 12, have been plowed down. They are about 30 feet above the lake, on the S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 5, T. 121-26. The largest mounds are isolated, 74 feet in diameter,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high; and 67 feet in diameter, 6 feet high. Surveyed Sept. 13, 1891.

There is another tumulus, which is flat-topped, and which probably belong to the foregoing group, on the N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , of the same section, about 20 feet above the lake. The top is 18 feet in diameter, and the base is 50 feet,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. It is 130 feet from the brow of the bluff, which overlooks a meadow.



Mounds between Lakes Ramsey and Maple. On the N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 8, T. 120-26, is a single tumulus, and the remains of five others belonging to the group can be discerned. Possibly others have been destroyed. They are about 60 feet above the lake.

Mounds at Twin lakes (Silvia lake) on S.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 27, T. 121-28. Here are 19 earthworks, including 4 elongated mounds and one flat-topped, the last being the largest and out of the line of the series. Its base is 60 feet and its top 24 feet in diameter,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The longest mound is 265 feet in length and 18 feet in width,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. This group is 60 feet above the lake, from 20 to 45 feet from the brink of the bluff, and about 950 feet from the water's edge. Surveyed Aug. 4, 1887.

Group at Waverly lakes, lot 3, S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 32, T. 119-26. In this group of 11 mounds 3 are elongated, 20 feet wide, the longest being 150 feet long, and one has a curving spur-shaped enlargement. The largest (58 feet by 5 feet), has an extension  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high, 35 feet wide, and 31 feet long. When it was opened it was found to contain many human bones. Surveyed Sept. 17, 1881.

A solitary circular mound is on lot 6, N.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 32, T. 119-26, in the woods, 90 feet from the lake and 20 feet above it; 35 feet in diameter,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet high.

Fish lake mound, N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 13, T. 122-27. This mound is 55 feet in diameter, 7 feet high, and 50 feet above the lake. It has been excavated. Surveyed Nov. 13, 1886.

Cokato lake mounds, E.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 15, T. 119-28, at 200 yards from the shore of the lake and 40 feet above it. The largest here is 96 feet by 9 feet, 100 feet back from the bluff, within the line of extension of the series. One mound is elongated 76 feet by 25 feet, 2 feet high.

Grimshaw Creek group, W.  $\frac{1}{2}$ , N. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$ , sec. 6, T. 118-25, consists of 7 tumuli, two of them being large, 60 feet by 3 feet and 56 feet by 8 feet, situated on a bluff overlooking a marsh. Surveyed Sept. 16, 1881.

According to the catalogue furnished by Mr. Lewis when it was turned over to Mr. Mitchell, the Lewis collection, now in the custody of the State Historical Society, contained, from Wright county, 5 grooved axes, 6 arrow and spear heads, 2 war-points, 1 grooved hammer, 1 celt, 1 stone roller, 1 hoe, 1 scraper and 1 "chipped implement."





INDIAN CHIEF

## CHAPTER III.

## INDIAN OCCUPANCY AND TREATIES.

**The North American Indian—The Dakotas—Migrations—Occupancy of the Mille Lacs Region—The Ojibwas—The Ojibwa-Dakota Conflict—The Winnebagoes—The Sauks and Foxes—Indians in Wright County—Indian Treaties—Wright County Passes into the Possession of the Whites—Coming of the Winnebagoes—Life of the Indian.**

The archeology and anthropology of the American Indian is still in its infancy. But a few fundamental facts stand out in bold relief. We are told by scientists that man is of great antiquity in America; and that though the aborigines' blood is doubtless mixed with later arrivals in many localities and tribes, still, barring the Eskimo, the fundamental race characteristics are the same from Hudson Bay to Patagonia. Hence a common American ancestry of great antiquity must be predicated of the whole Indian race.

If an imaginary line is drawn east and west through the southern boundary of Virginia, then except for the northwest corner of British America, the Red Men in the territory north of this line and east of the Rocky mountains, including the larger part of the United States and British America, are and have been for centuries almost exclusively of just three linguistic stocks: Iroquoian, Siouan, and Algonquin. The one reason for classing these Indians into three ethnic stocks is that the vocabularies of their languages do not seem to have a common origin. Otherwise these Indians are so familiar physically and psychically that even an expert will at times find it hard to tell from appearance to which stock an individual belongs. These three stocks are in mental, moral, and physical endowment the peers of any American aborigines, though in culture they were far behind the Peruvians, Mexicans, and the nations in the southwestern United States. But their native culture is not so insignificant as is the popular impression. Except the western bands who subsisted on the buffalo, they practiced agriculture; and in many, if not in most tribes, the products of the chase and fishing supplied less than half their sustenance; their moccasins, tanned skin clothing, bows and arrows, canoes, pottery and personal ornaments evinced a great amount of skill and not a little artistic taste. Their houses were not always the conical tipi of bark or skins, but were often very durable and comparatively comfortable and constructed of timber or earth or even stone.



**The Dakotas.** As to how these stocks came originally into this territory, there is no certain knowledge but much uncertain speculation. Here we shall be content to start with the relatively late and tolerably probable event of their living together, in the eastern part of the United States, some five centuries ago. Algonquians lived on the Atlantic slope, the Iroquois perhaps south of Lake Erie and Ontario, and the Siouans in the upper Ohio valley. These Siouan peoples had possibly previously occupied the upper Mississippi region, but for some reason had left here. At any rate, a century or so before the arrival of Columbus, found them for the most part in the upper Ohio valley. What peoples, if any, were in the meantime living on the plains of the upper Mississippi is not definitely known. Of the Siouan peoples we are interested in the main division of the Sioux, more properly the Dakotas. Probably because of the pressure of the fierce and well organized Iroquois, the Sioux, perhaps about 1400 A. D., began slowly to descend the Ohio valley. Kentucky and the adjacent parts of Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were certainly at that time a primitive man's paradise, and the anabasis begun under compulsion was enthusiastically continued from choice. They reached the confluence of the Ohio and the Mississippi. Probably here they first encountered the buffalo, or bison, in large numbers. The spirit of adventure and the pressure of an increasing population sent large bands up the Mississippi. When the Missouri was reached no doubt some followed that stream. Those who kept to the Mississippi were rewarded as they ascended the stream by coming into what was from the viewpoint of primitive man a richer country. Coming up into Minnesota a forest region was encountered soon after passing through beautiful lake Pepin. Soon a "wakan," a spiritual mystery, blocked the way of the Dakota canoes. St. Anthony Falls, of which now scarce a remnant is left, thundered over its ledge among the leafy boskage of banks and islands. Slowly but surely up the stream pushed the Dakotas. Rum river was reached, and its friendly banks were doubtless for many seasons dotted with the Dakota's tipis. But when the hunter-explorer's eyes first rested on the wide expanse of Mille Lacs, he rightly felt he had found a primitive paradise. M'dewakan, the Spirit lake, the lake of spiritual spell, soon became the site of perhaps the largest permanent encampment or headquarters of the Sioux. This with the Mississippi as their great waterway, Wright county must have become a famous hunting and fishing ground. Whether these Sioux, returning to what we believe to have been the home of their ancestors, found another people who had occupied the land during their long sojourn in the upper Ohio region, we do not know, though possibly there were scattering bands of Algonquin peoples here. These returning Sioux, it is believed, were the builders of all or nearly all of

the Wright county mounds, though some may have been built by their ancestors before they were expelled many centuries earlier. The Wright county mounds, though less in size and smaller in number, have the same interest as those found in Ohio, and which this same people are believed to have constructed.

Wright county lies in the western half of what was the most glorious hunting region in the world. In a zone extending north-northwest we have a series of beautiful lakes. The most southerly is the M'dewakan of the Dakotas, Mille Laes, some twenty miles long, then Gull, Pelican, and Whitefish lakes, each from eight to twelve miles long, magnificent sheets of water, small only in comparison with such giants as Leech lake, which comes next in the series. This body of water has as close neighbors, Cass, Winibigoshish, and Bemidji, lesser but still very large lakes. Continuing in the same direction, we come to Red lake, the largest body of fresh water entirely in the United States. Some eighty miles further north we find the largest lake of the series, the Lake of the Woods. This zone is two or three hundred miles long and was, and to a great extent yet is, a magnificent natural park and game preserve. Well watered and with every variety of surface, spangled with lakes and covered with forests of all kinds and combinations possible in this climate, with here and there a prairie thrown in for good measure, this indeed was the land of Seek-no-Further for the Indian. Of this region Wright formed a part and a favored part.

In this empire of forest, lake and streams, the Dakotas learned to be forest dwellers. Let us picture the life of the Dakotas in Wright as it was, say at the time when the Pilgrim Fathers landed at Plymouth. The Dakota dressed in skins and furs, tanned and prepared by the squaws, and sewed with bone needle and sinew thread. He lived then in the Stone Age. His arrow heads, axes, knives and kelts were made of stone, preferably flint or quartz. His house in summer was the familiar tipi, and sometimes this was all he had even in winter. But more substantial houses of wood, stone and earth were not unknown. Such were often built for several families.

The social structure of the Dakotas was the primitive tribal one, but of the simplest variety. Though many Siouan tribes have an elaborate tribal system, as for example the Omaha, the Dakota lived in bands of the loosest description. Chieftainship devolved on him who could grasp it, though in some cases, one dynasty maintained the chieftainship for several generations. Marriage was prohibited only within close blood relationships. No totem system or true clan system obtained. War parties were made up by ambitious individuals very much the same as hunting parties are among us. The word "Dakota" (variously spelled) means joined together in friendly compact, the Dakota

nation consisting of many tribes, between whom for the most part, a mutual forbearance, if not an active alliance, seems to have existed.

The religious cult and cosmic notions of the Dakotas were essentially the same as those of other primitive people. They explained all strange, mysterious, powerful, beneficent or malevolent beings, objects, or events, by assuming that a spirit lived and expressed himself in each of them. Every lake, waterfall, tree, animal, cloud or cliff that excited their wonder, admiration, fear or awe, was "wakan," a term that can scarcely be translated by any one English word. It means mysterious, elfish, bewitched, spirit-possessed, having supernatural powers. These spirits-in-things were conceived half as personal and half as impersonal. Like all primitive men they believed that these spirits could be controlled by magic. Some spoken formula, some symbolic ceremony, some charm or amulet was supposed to ward off evil influences or even secure active co-operation of spirit powers.

**The Ojibways.** By far the most numerous of the Indian stocks referred to is, and was, the Algonquin. It was probably peoples of the Algonquin stock who had driven the early Mound Builders from Minnesota, and occupied Minnesota during their absence. But for some time previous to the coming of Columbus, Algonquins were living on the Atlantic slope. When the French came to Canada they found these Indians in possession of the St. Lawrence up to Lake Ontario, and of an indefinite region north of the Great Lakes. For centuries the Algonquin Indians worked their way westward, following the Great Lakes. Possibly they had previously worked their way eastward and in this westward migration were merely returning to the homes of their own ancestors, just as the Sioux Indians in coming up the Mississippi some five hundred years ago, probably likewise returned to the home of their own ancestors. In their westward migration, the vanguard of the Algonquin host was the large and gifted tribes known as the Chippewas or Ojibways. Many were the sanguinary conflicts they had with the Iroquois, the "Nadowe," or "Adders," who possessed the south shore of Lake Erie and other regions. Farther west they came in contact with the Dakotas, whom they called the "Nadoweisiv" (the French wrote it Nadowessieux or Nadowaysieux, from the last syllable of which we have Sioux) or "Little Adders," and some other Indian tribes, both Siouan and Algonquian, like the Sauks, Foxes and Winnebagoes. Some three centuries ago we find them in full control of both the south and north shore of Lake Superior. This is a region rich in fur bearing animals, and very early in the seventeenth century the Indian hunter of the Great Lakes and the white fur trader discovered each other, and maintained ever afterwards a continuous trade relation. Firearms, the iron kettle, the knife and



hatchet of steel, and the blanket and calico were added from the white man's production to the red man's possessions.

Early in the eighteenth century, so scholars believe, the Ojibways were in possession of even the western shores of Lake Superior, and hunted as far west as the St. Louis river could serve them as a highway. The Dakotas were in possession of the wonderful lake-and-river region we have described. The highway of this region was the Mississippi. Where the Mississippi in its great swing eastward comes nearest to Lake Superior we find just east of the river a beautiful lake, called, from its sandy beach, Sandy lake. The Savanna river empties into this lake, and from this river to the East Savanna river which empties into the St. Louis river, is the portage between the Mississippi and the Great Lakes; and at Sandy lake, according to tradition, the two powerful tribes, the Dakota and the Ojibway, first met.

**The Ojibway-Dakota Conflict.** It was a case of, not love, but hate and war at first sight. Though the boundless forest could easily have supported them both, grasping human nature would not permit peace. Still, we must not imagine that the war was uninterrupted. Periods of peace, or rather truce, abounded. The two tribes often hunted and gathered rice together. They even intermarried. But whenever a member of one tribe injured or killed a person belonging to the other, the tribal feud law, common among primitive peoples, and not extinct among the "mountain whites" of our own day and nation, demanded that the injured man's family and tribe take vengeance on the offender's kin. Thus two rival tribes found almost constant cause for war, as there was no lack of degenerate or careless people whose deeds of violence or guile must be revenged, in addition to tribal jealousy and rivalry over possession of hunting grounds.

The Ojibways, while perhaps not the match of the Dakota in skill, strength and cunning, were the stronger because in their contact with the whites they had obtained a plentiful supply of firearms and iron implements. Slowly but surely they expelled the Dakotas from the great hunting zone of northern Minnesota. The great Dakota village at Mille Laes fell into the hands of the Ojibway. J. V. Brower thinks the date was about 1750. All of the Mississippi region above Brainerd was in the hands of the Ojibways. Still they pressed southward. Stearns county, just north of Wright county, was for over a century in the frontier between the Dakotas and the Ojibways. An attempt was made by the treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1825 to stop the age-long feud between the Dakota and the Ojibway; and the United States, acting as a friendly conciliating and arbitrating power, got the hostile tribes to agree to a division of their territory. This boundary line ran diagonally across Minnesota from the neighborhood



of Marine, a few miles south of Tailors Falls on the St. Croix, in an irregular line to Georgetown on the Red river, the general direction being northwest. The portion of the boundary between the Dakota and the Ojibway, extending from Chippewa river to Otter Tail lake, was surveyed in 1835 by S. A. Bean. The line enters Stearns county where the Watab empties into the Mississippi, and according to treaty, follows this stream to its source; but by this surveyor, according to Winchell, in "The Aborigines of Minnesota," "the head of the Watab river was assumed to be a small lake located in the N. E. corner of T. 124 N., R. 30 W., which is in reality the head of a tributary to that stream, the actual main source of the river being a number of miles to the southwest." This lake chosen by the surveyor must be one of the lakes near St. John's College, at Collegeville, in Stearns county. From here the line runs almost parallel with the Great Northern main line, diverging, however, slightly from it, so that the boundary crosses the western edge of the county some three or four miles from its northwest corner. North of this line we have Ojibway Stearns and south of it is Dakota Stearns. The Indians were never known to respect this line to any appreciable extent, but in all its subsequent treaties with the Indians, the United States government religiously recognized this line as dividing the territorial rights of the "Sioux" and "Chippewa" "nations."

In these raids of the two hostile tribes, the Mississippi was often the highway. Thus, about the time of the great French and Indian war, when the English and the French were fighting on three continents, the Ojibways and the Dakotas imitated their civilized brethren as well as they could, but their slaughter was only a small affair in comparison. However, what they lacked in magnitude of slaughter they made up in ferocity and truly savage heartless cruelty.

Let us trace briefly one series of attacks. Some time near the middle of the eighteenth century a gay and powerful flotilla of Dakota canoes paddled up the river, and leaving it at the Crow Wing confluence, went to Leach lake and began a circuit of murder of women and children in the populous communities of Ojibways living on the great initial loop of the Mississippi. The expedition ended disastrously for the assailants, however, for in the battle of Crow river they were routed by their adversaries. As a result, the Dakotas thought best to evacuate the Rum river country and move their villages farther south.

The belt of timber known as the Big Woods, extending southwest from the Mississippi about one hundred miles, and comprising the greater part of what is now Wright county, was evidently, even in historic times, the scene of many a fierce conflict

between the Sioux and the Chippewas. The Chippewas from their territory to the northeast of this county would watch for the Sioux when the latter came here to hunt, fish and gather cranberries, and by sudden raids captured many a Sioux scalp. But the Sioux in turn would watch for the Chippewas at the Otsego, Clearwater and Monticello prairies, and wreak terrible vengeance. D. R. Farnham is responsible for the following:

“In attempting to cross the Mississippi river, just above the present village of Monticello, at the head of the island in the river, in the year 1820, a large party of raiding Chippewas were overtaken by the infuriated Sioux, when they were about to cross the river, and many were killed, the band of Chippewas being nearly annihilated. The bones of the victims of these Chippewa raiders are scattered through the timbers and on the edges of the prairie. The arrowheads and tomahawks are turned up by the plow in many places.”

The Sioux or Dakotas of the Spirit lake, the M'dewakanton (commonly rendered Medawakanton) Sioux as they are called in history, had made canoe trips as far south as the Illinois country even in the days of their residence at Mille Laes. Consequently, after being driven from the Mille Laes region, and later forced from the Rum river region, they were perfectly familiar with the desirable sites in southern Minnesota. Therefore these Medawakantons, with whom were probably mingled the Mantantons and other subsidiary bands, gradually established villages at various points from what is now Lake Calhoun in Hennepin county down the Mississippi nearly to the Iowa state line and up the Minnesota a considerable distance. Possibly in thus locating their villages they drove the Iowas from around the region of the mouth of the Minnesota. This is not certain. Even when the Sioux were in the Mille Laes region they hunted in Wright county, and when the Lake Calhoun band took up its residence in Hennepin county, Wright county was the scene of frequent journeys. Later the Lake Calhoun band moved to Oak Grove, eight miles up the Minnesota river from Ft. Snelling, but the region between the Crow and Clearwater rivers continued to be a general hunting ground.

In the time of Hennepin the Mantanton Sioux territory seems to have extended from the Crow river northward, and it is likely that they, as well as their kinsman of the Medawakanton and subsidiary bands, hunted in this region, before the tribes became commingled.

So far as modern research has learned, Wright county contained no permanent Indian villages from the time when the aborigines ceased to build mounds up to the time that Minnesota was admitted as a territory. Its lakes and prairies and forests

were favorite hunting grounds, the Crow and Clearwater rivers were well-known water-paths, and the Mississippi was a great highway of war and of the chase, but no band made its headquarters here permanently, until the coming of the Winnebagoes. The vicinity of Buffalo lake in particular in historic times was a famous camping ground of the Sioux where they came in summer to fish and gather cranberries and in the winter to hunt deer. In still earlier times they came to hunt buffalo and catch beaver. Rockford was another favorite camping place.

The Winnebago Indians actually occupied Wright county for a while, and had large villages in several localities. They made strenuous efforts to have the area along the northwest side of the Crow river in Wright county and westward assigned to them as a reservation. The Ho-tchun-graws, or Winnebagoes, belong to the Siouan family of aborigines. Champlain, although he never visited them, mentions them. Nicollet, who had been in his employ, visited Green Bay about the year 1635, and an early Relation mentions that he saw the Ouinipegous, a people called so, because they came from a distant sea, which some French erroneously called Puants. Another writer speaking of these people says: "This people are called 'Les Puants' (The Stinkers) not because of any bad odor peculiar to them, but because they claim to have come from the shores of a far distant lake, towards the north, whose waters are salt. They call themselves the people 'de l'eau puants,' of the putrid or bad water." The Winnebagoes were many times removed by the United States, first from central Wisconsin to Iowa, then from Iowa to Minnesota, and subsequently from Minnesota to the Missouri river. The story of their subsequent wanderings is beyond the limits of this work.

**The Last Sioux Encampments.** After the Winnebagoes were removed in 1855, the Sioux continued to roam through Wright county, hunting, fishing, trapping, making maple sugar, and gathering various fruits and berries. They established large temporary villages at various places. Of their last villages in this county, George W. Florida, Secretary of the Wright County Old Settlers' Association, who as a boy was the playmate of the young Indians, has written the following:

In December, 1857, Little Crow's band of Sioux Indians camped on the edge of Rockford village on the ground now occupied by the fifty feet embankment of the "Soo" line. In many ways this was an interesting experience, having this large encampment of picturesque Indians, with their tribal customs, spending the winter only two village blocks from our house. We found them good neighbors at that time. The ice on the mill pond furnished good play grounds for the young Indians and the village boys. We were all equipped with moccasins and could

keep our feet on the ice as well as the natives. Our favorite games were Indian ball, and shinney, played by driving a ball on the ice, with shinney clubs, within bounds; the Indian boys against the Whites.

We would visit their camp and watch the pow-wows and dances with great interest. I think they were honest as a rule. Bishop Whipple, in speaking of the integrity of the Indians, said that he was visiting one of their most northern villages, and wished to go to a remote band, which he could reach only by canoe and walking. He felt anxious about leaving his vestments, robes and jewels, fearing they might be stolen. He asked his Indian guide if it would be safe to leave them there. "Oh yes, Bishop," said his guide, "there is not a white man within one hundred miles of this place."

Clinton Crandall, superintendent of the Indian schools at Pierre, South Dakota, says he is acquainted with a number of Indian families who say that they were with Little Crow at Rockford in 1857. They have good farms and well educated and refined families. They say that they regret the outbreak of 1862. Catherine Cassidy, a teacher at the Sisseton Reservation, has talked with Indians who told her that they were in Rockford with Little Crow's band. She says that they are good citizens, and have educated families.

In September, 1858, the Indians were to go to their reservation on the Minnesota river below the Redwood river, but Big Star, with his band of about ninety lingered in the vicinity of Buffalo. The white hunters were not willing to divide the game with them and took measures to remove them from Wright county. An order was secured, and taken to them by J. M. Powers. Their camp was near the site of Chatham. The order limited the time to ten days. As they still remained at the end of this time, the hunters, ten in number, from Buffalo, Rockford and Greenwood, armed with rifles, marched to the Indian camp to enforce the order. They found the camp broken up and the Indians moving west. The ultimatum of the hunters was that they should go through Hennepin county by crossing at Rockford. The braves were not in evidence when the hunters overtook the heavily laden squaws and ponies, and turned them back through Buffalo to Rockford. This town was reached just at sunset. During the afternoon, the braves, in war paint, carrying rifles, joined the band, marching haughtily behind the train in front of the hunters. Crow river was the county line. When the middle of the bridge was reached the young braves stopped and fired their rifles, skipping the bullets on the water up and down the county line. The squaws and ponies were tired from carrying their heavy packs, and all rested on the east bank. They made their camp on Edgar creek, one-half mile south of the village, near the big temple



mound built by the Mound Builders, and overlooking the river, at the mouth of the creek. Fearing retaliation for this humiliation, our mother sat up all night. The Indians did not forget, and in 1862, at the time of the outbreak, promised to burn the village. We had the deepest sympathy for them in being obliged to leave the blue lakes and beautiful woods of this county.

**Sauks and Foxes.** The Sauks and the Foxes seem at one time to have ranged the region of the Crow, Clearwater, Sauk and Watab rivers, and have left their names in such designations as Osakis, Osakis lake, Sauk river, Sauk Rapids and Sauk Centre. Possibly their period here was just before the Sioux left the Mille Lacs region, as there are traditional accounts of a battle in which the Chippewas defeated the Sioux and the Foxes combined, after which the Sioux never again attempted to live in the northern part of the state. Within historic times the Sauks and the Foxes lived south of Minnesota, and were bitter enemies of the Sioux, making many murderous attacks on their villages.

Another theory as to the existence of Sauks in this region was advanced by L. W. Collins in a paper read before the Stearns County Old Settlers' Association in 1897. He said in part:

"Five Sacs (Sauks), refugees from their own tribe on account of murder which they had committed, made their way up to what is now known as Osakis lake, and settled near the outlet, upon the east side. Three had wives of their own people, but the other two ultimately took wives of the Fond du Lac band of Chippewas. The men were great hunters and traded at the post of the Northwestern Fur Company, located on the lower Leaf lake, about six miles east of the eastern extremity of Otter Tail lake. This post was visited by bands of Sioux and Chippewas, and the traders were frequently entertained by deadly conflicts among their visitors. The Sac Indians were known to the Chippewas as O-zau-kees. On one of the excursions made by some of the pillager bands of Chippewas to the asylum of the O-zau-kees, it was found that all had been killed, supposedly by the Sioux." This story has the same flavor possessed by most of the tales told to the white questioners by the modern Indian. Even if it is true, the main body of the Sauks from whom these five are supposed to have fled might have been in this region. As to the location of the main band, Judge Collins' informant had no knowledge.

**Summary.** Possibly Eskimos once lived in Wright county, and followed the last retreating glacier northward. Possibly they were followed by peoples of the Siouan stock, who built a few of the mounds. The Siouan peoples were probably driven out by Algonquian peoples, and settled for the most part in the upper Ohio region. Some five hundred years ago, Siouan peoples returned to this region, possibly drove out such scattering Algon-

quian peoples as they found here, and built most of the mounds. These returning Siouan peoples, the Mound Builders, were probably the ancestors of the Sioux (Dakota) Indians, whom Hennepin found ranging the upper Mississippi region with headquarters at Mille Laes. After Hennepin's time, the Chippewas (Ojibways) drove the Sioux from Mille Laes, and they established villages further south. Wright county, which thus lay between the two nations, became a battleground. In the fifties, after the arrival of the white settlers in Minnesota, bands of Winnebagoes and of Sioux had villages in Wright county.

**The Life of the Indian.** Here may be the proper place to notice the great and sad change which has come over the life of the Indian since the far-off days of which we have spoken. The life of the red barbarian before he came in contact with civilization, and even later when he got no more from the whites than his gun, knife, kettle and blanket, was, though primitive, poor and coarse, still not mean and base. The Indian was healthy and sound in body and mind, and true and loyal to his standards of morality. To be sure, his standards were not our standards, and we often consider them crude and low; but as they were the best the Indian knew, his fidelity to his moral code is worthy of all honor.

But evil days came for the simple child of the forest, when as soon on the advancing frontier wave of civilization came the firewater, the vices and the diseases of civilized man. Neither his physical nor his spiritual organization is prepared to withstand these powerful evils of a stronger race, and the primitive red man has often, perhaps generally, been reduced to a pitiful parasite on the civilized community, infested with the diseases, the vermin and the vices of the white man and living in a degradation and squalor that only civilization can furnish.

The white man took from the Indian all his primitive virtues, and gave him none of the virtues of the white man in return. He taught the red man all of the evils of civilization before he was advanced enough to accept its advantages, and tried to make him conform suddenly with those habits of life which with the white race has been the development of ages. Thus burdened with the white man's vices, his own natural mode of living suddenly made impossible, driven here and there by the onrush of civilization, cheated and defrauded by traders and government officials alike, the Indian has degenerated until he is only a travesty on the noble kings of the forest who once held sway in the upper Mississippi valley. But a change is now coming with an awakened public conscience. And the results are encouraging. The census seems to indicate that the Indian is no longer a vanishing race. Steady and considerable progress is made in his civilization, and his physical condition is improving.

### COMING OF THE WINNEBAGOES.

By various treaties, among which may be mentioned those of September 15, 1832, and November 1, 1837, the Winnebagoes relinquished their lands in Wisconsin, and agreed to remove to a reservation in a certain portion of the "neutral strip," in north-eastern Iowa. The removal, in part, was accomplished. October 13, 1846, they signed a treaty agreeing to remove from Iowa to Minnesota. In furtherance of this project the United States obtained land from the Chippewas immediately adjoining a part of the Sioux territory on the north. The land thus selected took in portions of Morrison, Todd and Stearns county, and generally speaking may be said to have been bounded by the Mississippi, Crow Wing, Long Prairie and Watab rivers. The tract became known as the Long Prairie reservation. The removal to this reservation was accomplished in 1848. There were many desertions from the main body of the tribe, and at Winona the Indians absolutely refused to go further. Bloodshed was narrowly averted. However, the danger passed, and by August 1, 1848, the main body of the Winnebagoes was encamped on the north bank of the Watab, within their new reservation. But there was still much dissatisfaction among them, and many more desertions. The seven years, 1848 to 1855, during which the Long Prairie reservation was supposed to be the home of the Winnebagoes, were filled with turmoil and discontent. The agency was located on Long Prairie river, forty miles from the Mississippi river. Only a few, however, located near the agency post. Many were scattered along the Mississippi, and some returned to Wisconsin and Iowa. Many roved about in Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota with no settled abode.

The Sioux treaties of 1851 were no sooner negotiated than the Winnebagoes, aided by interested whites, endeavored to secure a part of the land ceded. October 26, 1852, Governor Alexander Ramsey presented to the government a proposition from the Winnebagoes that they would relinquish their Long Prairie reservation, with which they were dissatisfied, if the government would grant them a tract of some 500,000 acres "lying immediately north of the Crow river," that is, on the west bank of the Mississippi river, including much of Wright county. In case this was granted, all the scattered Winnebago bands agreed to settle in Wright county. Governor Willis A. Gorman, ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs in Minnesota, reported in 1853 that by General J. E. Fletcher (who had come with the Winnebagoes from Iowa) and himself, an exchange had been completed by which the Winnebagoes' new home on the Crow river (in Wright county) would yield them permanent satisfaction. He reported, however, that there were some whites who objected to the change,

as these whites desired to make bogus claims in Wright county and cut off the valuable timber with no intent of making their actual residence there. The occupancy by the Winnebagoes would prevent this profitable and dishonest lumbering. Governor Gorman in his report further states that the land north of the Crow river abounded in wild rice in abundance and was plentifully supplied with game. He also declared that except for strips along the Mississippi and a few prairies, the land now embraced in Wright county was fit only for the Indians, and not adapted to white settlement.

On September 8, 1853, only 300 of the original band of 2,500 Winnebagoes remained on the Long Prairie reservation. Although the government had not ratified the Gorman-Fletcher arrangement, many of the Winnebagoes had already moved to Wright county. The principal village was established on the shores of Buffalo lake, on the present site of the village of Buffalo, where as late as 1855, the cabins and tepees of the Winnebagoes covered a wide tract. Other important villages were in what are now Otsego and Rockford. There was much objection on the part of the whites to allowing the Indians to remain here, and it was proposed that the Winnebagoes be again removed to the southern branch of the Crow river, to include the Red Cedar Island lake, or even to a location still farther west. Finally, however, another location was selected for them. So, on February 27, 1855, another treaty was made with them, and that spring they removed to lands on the Blue Earth river. Owing to the panic caused by the outbreak of the Sioux in 1862, Congress, by a special act, without consulting them, in 1863, removed them from their fields to Minnesota to the Missouri river, and in the words of a missionary, "they were, like the Sioux, dumped in the desert, one hundred miles above Fort Randall."

### INDIAN TREATIES.

From prehistoric days up to the time of the treaty signed at Mendota, August 5, 1851, ratified and amended by the United States Senate, June 23, 1852, and proclaimed by President Millard Fillmore February 24, 1853, the land now embraced in Wright county remained in the nominal possession of the Indians. Before this treaty, however, several agreements were made between the Indians of this vicinity and the United States government, regarding mutual relations and the ceding of lands. The first of these was the treaty with Pike in 1805, by which land at the mouths of the Minnesota and St. Croix rivers was ceded to the government for military purposes.

**Visit to Washington.** In 1816, the War of 1812 having been brought to a close, the Indians of this vicinity made peace with the United States and signed treaties placing the Sioux of this



neighborhood "in all things and in every respect on the same footing upon which they stood before the late war." Perpetual peace was promised, and it was agreed that "every injury or act of hostility committed by one or the other of the contracting parties against the other shall be mutually forgiven and forgotten." The tribes recognized the absolute authority of the United States. After Ft. Snelling was established, the officers at various times engineered peace pacts between various tribes, but these were usually quickly broken.

In the spring of 1824 the first delegation of Sioux Indians went to Washington to see their "Great Father," the president. A delegation of Chippewas accompanied, and both were in charge of Major Lawrence Taliaferro. Wabasha, then properly called Wa-pa-ha-sha or Wah-pah-hah-sha, the head chief of the band at Winona; and Little Crow, head of the Kaposia band; and Wahnatah, were the principal members of the Sioux delegation. When the delegation had gone as far as Prairie du Chien, Wabasha and Wahnatah, who had been influenced by traders, desired to turn back, but Little Crow persuaded them to continue. The object of the visit was to secure a convocation of all of the upper Mississippi Indians at Prairie du Chien, to define the boundary line of the lands claimed by the separate tribes and to establish general and permanently friendly relations among them. The party made the trip in keel boats from Fort Snelling to Prairie du Chien, and from there to Pittsburgh by steamboat, thence to Washington and other eastern cities by land.

**Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1825.** This treaty, signed August 19, was of importance to the Indians who ranged Wright county in that it fixed certain general boundaries, and confirmed the fact that the present county lay entirely in Sioux territory. The treaty was participated in by the Chippewa, Sauk (Sac) and Fox; Menominee, Iowa, Sioux, Winnebago; and a portion of the Ottawa, Chippewa and Potawatomi tribes living on the Illinois.

The line between the Sioux and the confederated Sauks and Foxes extended across a part of northern Iowa. It was declared in the treaty to run up the Upper Iowa (now the Oneota) river to its left fork, and up that fork to its source; thence crossing the Cedar river to the second or upper fork of the Des Moines, and in a direct line to the lower fork of the Calumet (Big Sioux) river, and down that river to the Missouri river. On both sides of this line extended a tract which came to be known as the "Neutral Strip," into which the Winnebagoes were later moved as a buffer between the Sioux and their enemies to the south.

The eastern boundary of the Sioux territory was to commence on the east bank of the Mississippi river opposite the mouth of the "Ioway" river, running back to the bluffs and along the bluffs to the Bad Axe river, thence to the mouth of the Black

river, and thence to half a day's march, below the falls of the Chippewa. East of this line, generally speaking, was the Winnebago country, though the Menominee country lay about Green Bay, Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee river, and the Menominees claimed as far west as the Black river. The Chippewa country was to be to the north of the Winnebagoes and Menominees, and east of the northern line of the Sioux country, the line between the Chippewa and the Sioux beginning at a point a half a day's march below the falls of the Chippewa, thence to the Red Cedar river immediately below the falls, thence to a point on the St. Croix river, a day's paddle above the lake at the mouth of that river, and thence northwestward across the present state of Minnesota. The line crossed the Mississippi at the mouth of the Watab river just above St. Cloud. Thus both sides of the Mississippi during its course along Wright county were included in Sioux territory.

The boundary lines were certainly, in many respects, quite indefinite, and whether this was the trouble or not, in any event, it was but a few months after the treaty when it was evident that none of the signers were willing to be governed by the lines established, and hardly by any others. The first article of the treaty provided: "There shall be a firm and perpetual peace between the Sioux and the Chippewas; between the Sioux and the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes; and between the 'Ioways' and the Sioux." But this provision was more honored in the breach than the observance, and in a little time the tribes named were flying at one another's throats and engaged in their old-time hostilities.

**Sioux Treaty of 1837.** The second Treaty of Prairie du Chien, signed in 1830, and the Wabasha Treaty of 1836, were not important to Wright county, but were steps toward the final cession of the territory including this county. The treaty of 1837, however, ceded to the United States the islands lying in and along Wright county in the Mississippi, and also the land across the Mississippi river from Wright county. Thus civilization was gradually approaching.

In the spring of 1837, Agent Lawrence Taliaferro was instructed to organize an authoritative and reliable delegation of Medawakanton Sioux to proceed to Washington and make a treaty ceding all the lands claimed by them east of the west bank of the Mississippi. These lands were a strip on the east side of the Mississippi, varying in width from the mouth of the Bad Axe to the mouth of the Watab, and also the islands in the river. A delegation of about twenty Sioux chiefs and head men accordingly went to Washington, accompanied by various white men then living in the Northwest, and signed the treaty. The Sioux were to receive goods, and an annuity of goods and moneys. Cer-

tain moneys were also to be expended by the government for civilization, that is for the support of a physician, farmers and blacksmiths, and for the purchase of medicines, agricultural implements, mechanics' tools, cattle and other goods. A part of the payment was to be withheld and expended at the discretion of the President of the United States. Certain annuities were to be paid for twenty years.

**The Doty Treaty.** The Doty Treaty, made at Traverse des Sioux (St. Peter), in July, 1841, failed to be ratified by the United States Senate. This treaty embodied a Utopian dream that a territory of Indians could be established, in which the redmen would reside on farms and in villages, living their lives after the style of the whites, having a constitutional form of government, with a legislature of their own people elected by themselves, the governor to be appointed by the president of the United States, much along the plan long followed with the Cherokees in what is now Oklahoma, except that it embodied for the Indians a much higher type of citizenship than was found in Oklahoma. The Indians were to be taught the arts of peace, to be paid annuities, and to be protected by the armies of the United States from their Indian enemies on the west. In return for these benefits to be conferred upon the Indians, the United States was to receive all the lands in what is now Minnesota, the Dakotas and northwestern Iowa. This ceded land was not to be opened to the settlement of the whites, and the plan was to have some of it reserved for Indian tribes from other parts of the country who should sell their lands to the United States, and who, in being moved here, were to enjoy all the privileges which had been so beautifully planned for the native Indians. But no one can tell what would have been the result of this experiment, for the senate, for political reasons, refused to ratify the treaty, and it failed of going into effect. This treaty was signed by the Sisseton, Wahpeton and Wahpakoota bands at Traverse des Sioux, July 31, 1841, and by the Medawakanton bands at Mendota, August 11 of the same year.

**Preliminaries to Final Session.** After Minnesota was admitted as a territory the necessity of obtaining from the Indians the title to the land was apparent. The first territorial legislature, at the recommendation of Governor Alexander Ramsey, presented a petition to Congress in October, 1849, asking that measures be taken toward that end. But the government had already made efforts in the same direction. In June, 1849, Orlando Brown, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, had addressed an official letter on the subject to Thomas Ewing, then United States secretary of the interior. Secretary Ewing appointed Governor Ramsey and John Chambers, the latter of whom had been territorial governor of Iowa, to conduct the negotiations. As Congress failed to make an appropriation for the purpose, Commissioner Brown

determined to pay the expense out of the "small current appropriations" fund of his office. Commissioner Brown, however, had no true idea of the value of the land he wished the government to secure.

The proposed treaty of 1849 was never made. A call was issued to the Sioux to meet at Traverse des Sioux and Mendota, but when Commissioners Ramsey and Chambers reached those places, the Indians were engaged in other parts of the country hunting after game and wild rice.

At Mendota, however, a treaty was made with some of the chiefs of the Medawakanton and Wapakoota bands for the purchase of the Half-Breed tract, which had been set aside July 15, 1830, for the Sioux mixed bloods. This treaty was forwarded to Washington but was not ratified by the senate. However, the agitation for the opening of Minnesota continued, and resulted in 1851 in the treaties now so familiar to all students of history.

**Treaty of Traverse des Sioux.** In the spring of 1851 President Fillmore appointed Governor Alexander Ramsey and Luke Lea as commissioners to open negotiations with the Indians for the purpose of opening to settlement what is now the greater part of Minnesota. The conference was held at Traverse des Sioux (now St. Peter), between the chiefs and head men of the Sisseton and Wahpeton, or Upper Bands, as they were called, and the two commissioners. The Indians were accompanied by their families, and many prominent pioneers were also present. The meeting was held under a brush arbor erected by Alexis Bailly, and one of the incidents of the proceedings was the marriage of two mixed blood people, David Faribault and Nancy Winona McClure, the former the son of Jean Baptist Faribault, and the latter the daughter of Lieutenant James McClure. The treaty was signed July 22, 1851, and provided that the upper bands should cede to the United States all their land in Iowa as well as their lands east of a line from the Red river to Lake Traverse and thence to the northwestern corner of Iowa.

**Treaty of Mendota.** From July 29, 1851, to August 5, Mendota was the scene of the conference which opened Wright county and so large a portion of Minnesota to settlement. The chiefs and head men of the lower bands were thoroughly familiar with the proceedings of the Indians and the representatives of the United States at Traverse des Sioux and all were on hand that bright August day, waiting for the negotiations to open at Mendota. The first session was held in the warehouse of the fur company at that place, but the Indians found the atmosphere stifling, and not in accord with their usual method of outdoor councils, so the consideration of the treaty was taken up under a large brush arbor, erected by Alexis Bailly, on an elevated plain near the high prominence known as Pilot Knob. Dr. Thomas



Foster was secretary for Commissioners Lea and Ramsey; the interpreters were Alexander Faribault, Philander Prescott and Rev. G. H. Pond; the white witnesses were David Olmsted, W. C. Henderson, Alexis Bailly, Richard Chute, Henry Jackson, A. L. Carpenter, William H. Randall, A. S. H. White, H. L. Dousman, Fred C. Sibley, Martin McLeod, George N. Faribault and Joseph A. Wheelock.

At the opening of the first day's session the white commissioners explained the object of the gathering. Wabasha, the head chief of the Medawakantons, made a speech in which he said that the Indians had not yet received the money due them under the treaty of 1837 and that they did not feel inclined to make any new agreements with the United States until the government had kept its former agreements and paid for the land already obtained. The commissioners explained to him that there was an agreement in the 1837 treaty that a portion of the money was to be paid them at the pleasure and discretion of the president, and that the president was withholding it. Colonel Lea said there would be no trouble about the money then due the Indians if they would sign this new treaty. Governor Ramsey said that the president thought that the money due the Indians should be expended for the education of the Indian children. There was some further discussion, and then the council adjourned for the day.

The next day when the council opened, Wabasha, as head chief, rose and said that he would sit and listen that day and let the other chiefs talk. After a long silence Little Crow, whose band was at Kaposia, now South St. Paul, made a lengthy and eloquent speech, in which he reiterated Wabasha's demand that the money already due them be paid before they made any more treaties. There was then a long discussion, but Little Crow declared that the Indians would talk about nothing else but the money already due them. The council then adjourned until it should be called by the Indians.

The next afternoon the Indians assembled at the council house and sent for the commissioners, but none of the red men would talk, and after going over the matter again the commissioners left, apparently in great anger.

There was then an interval of four days spent by the whites in preparing a treaty which would be acceptable to the Indians. In the meantime the Indians had become reconciled to a certain extent. Wabasha still opposed the new treaty, but many of the others favored it.

August 5, the council again assembled. After the opening ceremony, the papers were spread out for the Indians to sign. "Who will sign first?" asked Governor Ramsey. Colonel Lea

indicated that Little Crow should be the first, but he smiled and shook his head.

Then Wabasha arose. He was the head chief of the Medawakantons and the one who should properly sign first. He said: "You have requested us to sign these papers and you have told these people standing around that it is for their benefit; but I do not think so. In the treaty you have prepared you have said a lot about farmers, schools, physicians, traders and half-breeds who are to be paid out of our money. To all of these I am opposed. You see these chiefs sitting around here. They—and some others who are dead—went to Washington some years ago and made a treaty in which the same things were said; but we were not benefited by them and I want them struck out of this one. We want nothing but cash for our lands. Another thing: You have named a place for our home, but it is a prairie country. I am a man used to the woods and do not like the prairie; perhaps some of those who are here will name a place we will all like better. Another thing: When I went to Washington to see our Great Father, he asked us for our land and we gave it to him, and he agreed to furnish us goods and provisions for twenty years. I wish to remain in this country until that time expires.

But Colonel Lee, knowing Wabasha's influence and recognizing the truth of what he said made an indignant and severe reply to Wabasha. He declared that the chief was neither a friend of the white man nor the Indians, that he had been foolish in advising the Indians to ask \$6,000,000 for their land, that he had been deceitful in wishing that the Medawakantons should make a treaty of their own with the government instead of joining with the other tribes in making the treaty, and that the whites did not expect to be able to make a treaty that would suit his views, for he was opposed to any kind of a treaty at that time.

Then there was another discussion in which the Indians endeavored to secure acknowledgment for some papers by which they had given lands to certain individuals. The commissioners refused to consider this proposition. Then there was still another long discussion, especially as to the location of the reservation. After speeches by several chiefs, Wabasha asked if the chiefs and second chiefs were to be distinguished from the warriors, or if they were to receive more money than the common Indians. Colonel Lee declared that each chief ought to receive a medal and be provided with a good house. Wabasha then arose and turning his back to the commissioners spoke to the warriors. He told them that the young men among them had declared that they would kill the first man that signed the treaty, but that they had at the same time secretly agreed among themselves to sell the land. One of the young Indians denied that there was any intention of killing any of the chiefs. He acknowledged, however, that

the warriors had decided to sell the land and that they had a right to for the land belonged to them and not to the chiefs. Then there was another discussion.

Finally after a speech to the warriors Little Crow signed the treaty. To the general surprise of all, Wabasha was the next to sign. He affixed his mark. Then the other chiefs, head soldiers and principal warriors crowded about and affixed their marks, there being sixty-five Indian signatures in all.

At Mendota, as at Traverse des Sioux, when the treaty was concluded, each Indian signer stepped to another table where lay another paper which he signed. This was called the traders' paper, and was an agreement to pay the "just debts," so called, of the Indians, including those present and absent, alive and dead, owing to the traders and the trading company. Some of the accounts were nearly thirty years old, and the Indians who had contracted them were dead, but the bands assumed the indebtedness and agreed that it might be discharged out of the first money paid them. Wabasha had asked that an itemized bill be presented, saying that he wished to know what he owed for each article purchased. The territory ceded by the two treaties was declared to be: "All their lands in the state of Iowa, and also all their lands in the territory of Minnesota lying east of the following line, to-wit: Beginning at the junction of Buffalo river with the Red River of the North (about twelve miles north of Morehead, at Georgetown station, in Clay county); thence along the western bank of said Red river of the North, to the mouth of the Sioux Wood river; thence along the western shore of said Sioux Wood river to Lake Traverse; thence along the western shore of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence, in a direct line, to the juncture of Kampeska lake with the Tehan-Ka-Sna-Duka, or Sioux river; thence along the western bank of said river to its point of intersection with the northern line of the state of Iowa, including all islands in said rivers and lakes."

The lower bands were to receive \$1,410,000, to be paid in the manner and form following: For settling debts and removing themselves to the new reservations, \$220,000, one-half to the Medawakanton bands, and one-half to the single Wahpakoota band; for schools, mills and opening farms, \$30,000. Of the principal of \$1,410,000, the sum of \$30,000 in cash was to be distributed among the two bands as soon as the treaty was ratified, and \$28,000 was to be expended annually, under the president's direction, as follows: To a civilization fund, \$12,000; to an educational fund, \$6,000; for goods and provisions, \$10,000. The balance of the principal, or \$1,160,000, was to remain in trust with the United States at 5 per cent interest, to be paid annually to the Indians for fifty years, commencing July 1, 1852. The

\$58,000 annuity interest was to be expended as the first installment—\$30,000 in cash, \$12,000 for civilization, \$6,000 for education, and \$10,000 for goods and provisions. The back annuities under the treaty of 1837 remaining unexpired were also to be paid annually. Their reservation was to extend from the mouth of the Yellow Medicine and Hawk creek southeasterly to the mouth of Rock creek, a tract twenty miles wide and about forty-five miles in length. The half-breeds of the Sioux were to receive in cash \$150,000 in lieu of lands allowed them under the Prairie du Chien treaty of 1830, but which they had failed to claim.

The written copies of the Traverse des Sioux and the Mendota treaties, duly signed and attested, were forwarded to Washington to be acted upon by the senate at the ensuing session of congress. An unreasonably long delay resulted. Final action was not had until the following summer, when, on July 23, the senate ratified both treaties with important amendments. The provisions for reservations for both the upper and lower bands were stricken out, and substitutes adopted, agreeing to pay 10 cents an acre for both reservations, and authorizing the president, with the assent of the Indians, to cause to be set apart other reservations, which were to be within the limits of the original great cession. The provision to pay \$150,000 to the half-bloods of the lower bands was also stricken out. The treaties, with the changes, came back to the Indians for final ratification and agreement to the alterations. The chiefs of the lower bands at first objected very strenuously, but finally, on Saturday, September 4, 1852, at Governor Ramsey's residence in St. Paul, they signed the amended articles, and the following Monday the chiefs and head men of the upper bands affixed their marks. As amended, the treaties were proclaimed by President Fillmore, February 24, 1853. The Indians were allowed to remain in their old villages, or, if they preferred, to occupy their reservations as originally designated, until the president selected their new homes. That selection was never made, and the original reservations were finally allowed them, Congress on July 31, 1854, having passed an act by which the original provisions remained in force. The removal of the lower Indians to their designated reservation began in 1853, but was intermittent, interrupted, and extended over a period of several years. The Indians went up in detachments, as they felt inclined. After living on the reservation for a time, some of them returned to their old hunting grounds, where they lived continuously for some time, visiting their reservation and agency only at the time of the payment of their annuities. Finally, by the offer of cabins to live in, or other substantial inducements, nearly all of them were induced to settle on the Redwood Reserve, so that in 1862, at the time of the outbreak, less than twenty families of the Medawakantons and Wahpakootas were living off



their reservation. With the subsequent history of these Indians this volume will not treat in detail; the purpose of dealing with the Indians thus far in this chapter having been to show the various negotiations by which Wright and other counties came into the possession of the whites and were thus opened for settlement and development.

## CHAPTER IV.

### GOVERNMENTAL HISTORY.

**Early Claims of Title—Spain, France and England—Treaties and Agreements—The Louisiana Purchase—Indiana—Louisiana District—Louisiana Territory—Missouri Territory—North-west Territory—Illinois Territory—Michigan Territory—Wisconsin Territory—Iowa Territory—No Man's Land—Sibley in Congress—Minnesota Territory—Minnesota State.**

The history of the early governmental jurisdiction of what is now central Minnesota is formulated with some difficulty, as, prior to the nineteenth century, the interior of the country was so little known and the maps upon which claims and grants were founded were so meager, as well as incorrect and unreliable, that descriptions of boundaries and locations as given in the early treaties are vague in the extreme, and very difficult of identification with present-day lines and locations.

The Hon. J. V. Brower, a scholarly authority upon this subject, says ("The Mississippi River and Its Sources"): "Spain, by virtue of the discoveries of Columbus and others, confirmed to her by papal grant (that of Alexander VI, May 4, 1493), may be said to have been the first European owner of the entire valley of the Mississippi, but she never used this claim as a ground for taking formal possession of this part of her domains other than incidentally involved in De Soto's doings. The feeble objections which she made in the next two centuries after the discovery to other nations exploring and settling North America were successfully overcome by the force of accomplished facts. The name of Florida, now so limited in its application, was first applied by the Spaniards to the greater part of the eastern half of North America, commencing at the Gulf of Mexico and proceeding northward indefinitely. This expansiveness of geographical view was paralleled later by the definition of a New France of still greater extent, which practically included all the continent.

"L'Escarbot, in his history of New France, written in 1617, says, in reference to this: 'Thus our Canada has for its limits on the west side all the lands as far as the sea called the Pacific,

on this side of the Tropic of Cancer; on the south the islands of the Atlantic sea in the direction of Cuba and the Spanish land; on the east the northern sea which bathes New France; and on the north the land said to be unknown, toward the icy sea as far as the arctic pole.'

"Judging also by the various grants to individuals, noble and otherwise, and 'companies,' which gave away the country in latitudinal strips extending from the Atlantic westward, the English were not far behind the Spaniards and French in this kind of effrontery. As English colonists never settled on the Mississippi in pursuance of such grants, and never performed any acts of authority there, such shadowy sovereignties may be disregarded here, in spite of the fact that it was considered necessary, many years later, for various states concerned to convey to the United States their more or less conflicting claims to territory which lay far to the westward of their own actual borders.

"Thus, in the most arbitrary manner, did the Mississippi river, though yet unknown, become the property, successively, of the Iberian, Gaulish and Anglo-Saxon races—of three peoples who, in later times, by diplomacy and force of arms, struggled for an actual occupancy. Practically, however, the upper Mississippi valley may be considered as having been in the first place Canadian soil, for it was Frenchmen from Canada who first visited it and traded with its various native inhabitants. The further prosecution of his discoveries by La Salle, in 1682, extended Canada as a French possession to the Gulf of Mexico, though he did not use the name of Canada nor yet that of New France. He preferred to call the entire country watered by the Mississippi river and its tributaries, from its uttermost source to its mouth, by the new name he had already invented for the purpose—Louisiana. The names of Canada and New France had been indifferently used to express about the same extent of territory, but the name of Louisiana now came to supersede them in being applied to the conjectural regions of the West. Although La Salle has applied the latter expression to the entire valley of the Mississippi, it was not generally used in that sense after his time; the upper part of the region was called Canada, and the lower Louisiana; but the actual dividing line between the two provinces was not absolutely established, and their names and boundaries were variously indicated on published maps. Speaking generally, the Canada of the eighteenth century included the Great Lakes and the country drained by their tributaries; the northern one-fourth of the present state of Illinois—that is, as much as lies north of the mouth of the Rock river; all the regions lying north of the northern watershed of the Missouri, and finally the valley of the upper Missouri itself." This would include Wright county.

But it is now necessary to go back two centuries previous

and consider the various explorations of the Mississippi upon which were based the claims of the European monarchs. Possibly the mouth of the Mississippi had been reached by Spaniards previous to 1541, possibly Hibernian missionaries as early as the middle of the sixth century, or Welch emigrants (Madoc), about 1170, discovered North America by way of the Gulf of Mexico, but historians give to Hernando de Soto and his band of adventurers the credit of having been the first white men to actually view the Mississippi on its course through the interior of the continent and of being the first ones to actually traverse its waters. De Soto sighted the Mississippi in May, 1541, at the head of an expedition in search of gold and precious stones. In the following spring, weary, with hope long deferred, and worn out with his adventures, De Soto fell a victim to disease and died May 21, 1541. His followers, greatly reduced in number by sickness, after wandering about in a vain searching, built three small vessels and descended to the mouth of the Mississippi, being the first white men to reach the outlet of that great river from the interior. However, they were too weary and discouraged to lay claim to the country, and took no notes of the region through which they passed.

In 1554 James Cartier, a Frenchman, discovered the St. Lawrence, and explored it as far as the present site of Quebec. The next year he ascended the river to Mont Real, the lofty hill for which Montreal was named. Thereafter all the country drained by the St. Lawrence was claimed by the French. Many years later the King of France granted the "basin of the St. Lawrence and all the rivers flowing through it to the sea," to a company, whose leader was Champlain, the founder of Quebec, which became the capital of New France, whose then unexplored territory stretched westward to well within the boundaries of what is now Minnesota. In 1613-15 Champlain explored the Ottawa river, and the Georgian bay to Lake Huron, and missions were established in the Huron country. Missionaries and fur traders were the most active explorers of the new possessions. They followed the shores of the Great Lakes and then penetrated further and further into the wilderness. As they went they tried to make friends of the red men, established trading posts and raised the Christian cross. In 1641 Jogues and Raymbault, Jesuits, after a long and perilous voyage in frail canoes and bateaux, reached the Sault Ste. Marie, where they heard of a large river, the Mishisip-e, flowing southward to the sea, and of a powerful Indian tribe dwelling near its headwaters. Stories of vast fertile plains, of numberless streams, of herds of buffalo, and of many people, in regions far to the west and south, roused missionaries and traders anew, and the voyages and trips of the explorers became more frequent.

In 1659-60 Radisson and Groseilliers, proceeding westward from Lake Superior, possibly entered what is now Minnesota. They spent some time in the "forty villages of the Dakotas," possibly in the vicinity of Mille Laes, and where, it has been contended, the first white men to set foot on the soil of this state. The contention that these adventurers spent a part of the years 1655-56 on Prairie Island, in the Mississippi just above Red Wing, is disputed by some historians, but still forms an interesting subject for study and conjecture.

Some writers also claim that the Frenchman, *Sieur Nicollet*, who should not be confused with the Nicollet of a later date, reached the Mississippi in 1639.

Rene Menard, a Jesuit missionary, reached the Mississippi in 1661 by way of Wisconsin. This was twelve years prior to its discovery by Marquette and Joliet, and to Menard historians in general give the honor of the discovery of the upper waters of the great river. Menard ascended the Mississippi to the mouth of the Black river, Wisconsin, and was lost in a forest near the source of that stream while attempting to carry the gospel to the Hurons. His sole companion "called him and sought him, but he made no reply and could not be found." Some years later his camp kettle, robe and prayer book were seen in the possession of the Indians.

In the summer of 1663 the intelligence of the fate of Menard reached Quebec, and on August 8, 1665, Father Claude Allouez, who had anxiously waited two years for the means of conveyance, embarked for Lake Superior with a party of French traders and Indians. He visited the Minnesota shores of Lake Superior in the fall of 1665, established the Mission of the Holy Spirit at La Pointe, now in Wisconsin, and it is said "was the first to write 'Messipi,' the name of the great river of the Sioux country," as he heard it pronounced by the Chippewas, or rather as it sounded to his ears.

May 13, 1673, Jaques Marquette and Louis Joliet, the former a priest and the latter the commander of the expedition, set out with five assistants, and on June 17 of the same year reached the Mississippi at the present site of Prairie du Chien, thence continuing down the river as far as the mouth of the Illinois, which they ascended, subsequently reaching the lakes.

In 1678, the *Sieur De Luth*, Daniel Graysolon, under commission from the governor of Canada, set out from Quebec, to explore the country west of the Lake Superior region. He was to take possession of it in the name of the king of France, and secure the trade of the native tribes. De Luth entered Minnesota in 1679, reaching the great Sioux village of Kathio at Mille Laes, on July 2. "On that day," he says, "I had the honor to plant His Majesty's arms where a Frenchman never before had been."



In 1680 Accault planted the French royal arms near the source of the Mississippi.

La Salle, however, was the first to lay claim to the entire valley in the name of his sovereign. After achieving perpetual fame by the discovery of the Ohio river (1670-71), he conceived the plan of reaching the Pacific by way of the Northern Mississippi, at that time unexplored and supposed to be a waterway connecting the two oceans. Frontenac, then governor-general of Canada, favored the plan, as did the king of France. Accordingly, gathering a company of Frenchmen, he pursued his way through the lakes, made a portage to the Illinois river, and, January 4, 1680, reached what is now Lake Peoria, in Illinois. From there, in February, he sent Hennepin and two companions to explore the upper Mississippi. During this voyage Hennepin and the men accompanying him were taken by the Indians as far north as Mille Laes. He also discovered St. Anthony Falls. Needing reinforcements, La Salle again returned to Canada. In January, 1682, with a band of followers, he started on his third and greatest expedition. February 6, they reached the Mississippi by way of Lake Michigan and the Illinois river, and March 6, discovered the three great passages by which the river discharges its waters into the Gulf. Two days later they re-ascended the river a short distance, to find a high spot out of the reach of inundations, and there erected a column and planted a cross, proclaiming with due ceremony the authority of the king of France. Thus did the whole Mississippi valley pass under the nominal sovereignty of the French monarchs.

The first definite claim to the upper Mississippi is embodied in a paper, still preserved, in the colonial archives of France, entitled "The record of the taking possession, in his majesty's name, of the Bay des Puants (Green bay), of the lake and rivers of the Outagamis and Maskoutins (Fox river and Lake Winnebago), of the river Oniskonche (Wisconsin), and that of the Mississippi, the country of the Nadouesioux (the Sioux or Dakota Indians), the rivers St. Croix and St. Pierre (Minnesota), and other places more remote, May 8, 1689." (F. B. O'Callahan's translation in 1855, published in Vol. 9, page 418, "Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York.") This claim was made by Perrot, and the proclamation is supposed to have been issued from Fort St. Antonie on the north-eastern shore of Lake Pepin, about six miles from its mouth.

The previous proclamations of St. Lussou in 1671 at the outlet of Lake Superior, of De Luth, in 1679, at the west end of the same lake and at Mille Laes, had no definite bearing on the land now embraced in Wright county, but nevertheless strengthened the French claims of sovereignty.

For over eight decades thereafter, the claims of France were,

tacitly at least, recognized in Europe. In 1763 there came a change. Of this change A. N. Winchell (in Vol. 10, "Minnesota Historical Society Collections") writes: "The present eastern boundary of Minnesota, in part (that is so far as the Mississippi now forms its eastern boundary), has a history beginning at a very early date. In 1763, at the end of that long struggle during which England passed many a mile post in her race for world empire, while France lost nearly as much as Britain gained—that struggle, called in America, the French and Indian War—the Mississippi river became an international boundary. The articles of the definite treaty of peace were signed at Paris, on February 10, 1763. The seventh article made the Mississippi, from its source to about the 31st degree of north latitude, the boundary between the English colonies on this continent and the French Louisiana. The text of the article is as follows (Published in the "Gentleman's Magazine," Vol. 33, pages 121-126, March, 1763):

"VII. In order to re-establish peace on solid and durable foundations, and to remove forever all subjects of dispute to the limits of the British and French Territories on the continent of America; that for the future the confines between the domains of his Britannic majesty and those of his most Christian majesty (the king of France) in that part of the world, shall be fixed irrevocably by a line drawn down the middle of the river Mississippi, from its source to the river Iberville, and from thence, by a line drawn along the middle of this river, and the Lake Maurepas and Pontchartrain, to the sea." The boundary from the source of the river farther north, or west, or in any direction, was not given; it was evidently supposed that it would be of no importance for many centuries at least.

This seventh article of the definite treaty was identical with the sixth article in the preliminary treaty of peace signed by England, Spain and France, at Fontainebleau, November 3, 1762. On that same day, November 3, 1762, the French and Spanish representatives had signed another act by which the French king "ceded to his cousin of Spain, and his successors forever \* \* \* all the country known by the name of Louisiana, including New Orleans and the island on which that city is situated." This agreement was kept secret, but when the definite treaty was signed at Paris the following year, this secret pact went into effect, and Spain at once became the possessor of the area described.

At the close of the Revolutionary war, the territory east of the Mississippi and north of the 31st parallel passed under the jurisdiction of the United States. By the definite treaty of peace between the United States and Great Britain, ratified at Paris, September 3, 1783, a part of the northern boundary of the United

States, and the western boundary thereof was established as follows: Commencing at the most northwestern point of the Lake of the Woods, and from thence on a due course west to the Mississippi river (the Mississippi at that time was thought to extend into what is now Canada), thence by a line to be drawn along the middle of said Mississippi river until it shall intersect the northernmost part of the 31st degree of north latitude. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 8, page 82.)

In 1800, by the secret treaty of San (or Saint) Ildefonso (signed October 1), Spain receded the indefinite tract west of the Mississippi to France, which nation did not, however, take formal possession until three years later, when the formality was made necessary in order that the tract might be ceded to the United States. Napoleon, for France, sold the tract to the United States, April 30, 1803. The region comprehended in the "Louisiana Purchase," as this area was called, included all the country west of the Mississippi, except those portions west of the Rocky mountains actually occupied by Spain, and extended as far north as the British territory.

By an act of congress, approved October 31, 1803, the president of the United States was authorized to take possession of this territory, the act providing that "all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the existing government, shall be vested in such person and persons, and shall be exercised in such manner as the president of the United States shall direct." (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 245.)

December 20, 1803, Louisiana was formally turned over to the United States at New Orleans, by M. Laussat, the civil agent of France, who a few days previous (November 30) had received a formal transfer from representatives of Spain. Wright county was included in the Louisiana purchase.

**The Northwest Territory** embraced all the area of the United States northwest of the Ohio river. By the provisions of the famous "Northwest Ordinance," passed July 13, 1787, by the Congress of the Confederation (the constitution of the United States not being adopted until September 17), the Ohio river became the boundary of the territory. The fifth article of the ordinance reads as follows: "Art. 5. There shall be formed in the said (i. e., the Northwest) territory, not less than three, nor more than five states, \* \* \* the western state in the said territory shall be bounded by the Mississippi, the Ohio and the Wabash rivers; a direct line drawn from the Wabash and Post Vincennes, due north, to the territorial line between the United States and Canada; and by the said territorial line to the Lake of the Woods and the Mississippi." (See Executive Documents, 3d session, 46th congress, 1880-81, Vol. 25, Doc. 47,

Part 4, pages 153-156; also United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 1, page 51, note a.) The Northwest Territory took in the counties across the Mississippi river from Wright county, but did not include Wright county.

**Indiana Territory.** The ordinance of 1787 provided for the organization of three "states" out of the Northwest Territory. That same year the constitution of the United States was adopted. In 1799, Ohio organized a territorial government, but the (proposed) middle (Indiana) and western (Illinois) "states" did not have, separately, sufficient population to warrant the establishment of two separate governments. Congress solved the difficulty by uniting the two under the name of Indiana. The act was passed May 7, 1800, and its first section reads as follows: "Section 1—Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the fourth day of July next, all that part of the territory of the United States, northwest of the Ohio river, which lies to the westward of a line beginning at the Ohio opposite the mouth of the Kentucky river, and running thence to Fort Recovery, and thence north until it shall intersect the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, constitute a separate territory, and be called the Indiana Territory." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 58.) Indiana was admitted as a state in 1816. Wright county was a part of Indiana (as a part of Louisiana district) a little less than one year, 1804-05.

**Louisiana District.** By an act of congress, approved March 26, 1804, all of that portion of the country ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, lying south of the 33d degree of north latitude, was organized as the territory of Orleans and all the residue thereof was organized as the district of Louisiana. The latter included Wright county. That act contained the following provision: "The executive power now vested in the government of the Indiana territory shall extend to and be exercised in said district of Louisiana." The area set off as the territory of Orleans was admitted as the state of Louisiana in 1812.

**Louisiana Territory.** By an act of congress approved March 3, 1805, all that part of the country embraced in the district of Louisiana was organized as a territory, called the territory of Louisiana.

**Missouri Territory.** By an act of congress approved June 4, 1814, it was provided that the territory hitherto called Louisiana should be called Missouri, and was organized as a territory. The struggles in congress which led to the Missouri compromise; the agreement that all territory west of Missouri and north of parallel 36° 36' should forever be free from the sway of slavery, and the final admission of Missouri with her present boundaries, by presidential proclamation, August 10, 1821, are outside of the



province of this history. Sufficient is it to say here that this admission left the land to the northward, including Wright county, without a fountain head of territorial government from that date until June 28, 1834, when it was attached to Michigan.

In 1809 settlers had come in so fast that there were sufficient citizens in Indiana territory to support two governments. Accordingly, the territory of Illinois was established February 3, 1808, by the following enactment: "Be it enacted, etc., that from and after the first day of March, next, all that part of the Indiana territory which lies west of the Wabash river and a direct line drawn from the said Wabash river and Post Vincennes, due north to the territorial line between the United States and Canada, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, and be called Illinois." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 514.) Illinois was admitted as a state in 1818. Wright county was never a part of Illinois.

**Michigan Territory.** By an act of congress passed June 11, 1805, Michigan territory was formed. The boundaries were described as follows: "All that part of the Indiana territory which lies north of a line drawn east from the southerly bend or extreme of Lake Michigan until it shall intersect Lake Erie, and east of a line drawn from the said southerly bend through the middle of said lake to its northern extremity, and thence due north to the northern boundary of the United States, shall for the purpose of temporary government constitute a separate territory, to be called Michigan." (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 2, page 309.) The population of Illinois continued to increase, and the people were eager for a state government. The southern portion was therefore granted statehood privileges in 1818, and the northern portion, mainly unoccupied, was cut off and added to the territory of Michigan, previously created. This transfer of territory was authorized in section 7 of the act passed April 18, 1818, enabling Illinois to form a state government and constitution. The terms of the act are as follows: "Section 7. And be it further enacted, That all that part of the territory of the United States lying north of the state of Indiana, and which was included in the former Indiana territory, together with that part of the Illinois territory which is situated north of, and not included within, the boundaries prescribed by this act (viz., the boundaries of the state of Illinois) to the state thereby authorized to be formed, shall be, and hereby is, attached to and made a part of the Michigan territory." Thus matters remained for sixteen years.

Missouri, in the meantime, had been admitted as a state (1812), and the territory north of that state, and west of the Mississippi, was practically without organized authority from that year until 1834, when the increase of settlement made it

advisable that the benefits of some sort of government should be extended to its area. Consequently, Michigan territory was extended to include this vast region. The act so enlarging Michigan territory passed congress June 28, 1834, in the following terms: "Be it enacted, etc., That all that part of the territory of the United States, bounded on the east by the Mississippi river, on the south by the state of Missouri, and a line drawn due west from the northwest corner of said state to the Missouri river; on the southwest and west by the Missouri river and the White Earth river, falling into the same, and on the north by the northern boundary of the United States, shall be, and hereby is, for the purpose of temporary government, attached to and made a part of the territory of Michigan." This included Wright county. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 4, page 701.) In less than two years certain territory was set apart to form the proposed state of Michigan. This act passed congress April 20, 1836, but Michigan was not admitted until January 26, 1837. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, pages 10-16.)

**Wisconsin Territory.** When Wisconsin territory was organized by an act of Congress, April 20, 1836, all the Louisiana purchase north of the state of Missouri was placed under its jurisdiction. This included Wright county. The boundaries as given at that time were as follows: "Bounded on the east by a line drawn from the northeast corner of the state of Illinois through the middle of Lake Michigan to a point in the middle of said lake and opposite the main channel of Green Bay and through said channel and Green Bay to the mouth of the Menominee river, thence through the middle of the main channel of said river to that head of said river nearest the Lake of the Desert, thence in a direct line to the middle of said lake, thence through the middle of the main channel of the Montreal river to its mouth; thence with a direct line across Lake Superior to where the territorial line of the United States last touches said lake, northwest, thence on the north with the said territorial line to the White Earth river (located in what is now Wood county, North Dakota). On the west by a line from the said boundary line, following down the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the Missouri river, and down the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to a point due west from the northwest corner of the state of Missouri; and on the south from said point due east to the northwest corner of the state of Missouri, and thence with the boundaries of the states of Missouri and Illinois as already fixed by act of congress." This included Wright county. (U. S. Statutes at Large, Vol. 5, page 18.)

**Iowa Territory.** The territory of Iowa was created by the act of congress, June 12, 1838, which act divided the territory of Wisconsin along the Mississippi river and named the western

part Iowa. The act provided: "That from and after the third day of July, next, all that part of the present territory of Wisconsin which lies west of the Mississippi river and west of a line drawn due south from the headwaters or sources of the Mississippi to the territorial lines, shall, for the purpose of temporary government, be and constitute a separate territorial government, by the name of Iowa." The area including Wright county was embraced within these lines.

Iowa remained a territory from 1838 to 1846. A convention of duly authorized representatives of the people remained in session at Iowa City from October 7 to November 1, 1844, and framed a state constitution. It was provided that the constitution adopted, together with any alterations which might subsequently be made by congress, should be submitted to the people of the territory for their approval or rejection at the township elections in April, 1845. The boundaries of the proposed new state, as defined in the constitution, were in part as follows: " \* \* \* Thence up in the middle of the main channel of the river last mentioned (the Missouri) to the mouth of the Sioux or Calumet river; thence in a direct line to the middle of the main channel of the St. Peter's (Minnesota) river, where the Watonwan river—according to Nicollet's map—enters the same, thence down the middle of the main channel of said river to the middle of the Mississippi river; thence down the middle of said river to the place of beginning." This would have included in the state of Iowa all the counties of what is now Minnesota that lie south and east of the Minnesota as far as Mankato, also including Faribault county and nearly all of Martin, the greater part of Blue Earth and portions of Watonwan, Cottonwood and Jackson.

Congress rejected these boundary lines, and March 3, 1845, in its enabling act, substituted the following description of the proposed boundaries: "Beginning at the mouth of the Des Moines river, in the middle of the Mississippi; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the parallel of latitude passing through the mouth of the Mankato or Blue Earth river; thence west along said parallel of latitude to a point where it is intersected by a meridian line 17° 30' west of the meridian of Washington City; thence due south to the northern boundary line of the state of Missouri; thence eastwardly following that boundary to the point at which the same intersects with the Des Moines river; thence by the middle of the channel of that river to the place of beginning." Thus the southern boundary of Minnesota would have been on a line due east from the present city of Mankato to the Mississippi river and due west from the same point to a point in Brown county. This would have included in Iowa all but a small fraction of the counties of Winona, Olmsted, Dodge, Steele, Waseca and Blue Earth, portions of Brown,

Watsonwan and Martin, and all of Faribault, Freeborn, Mower, Fillmore and Houston. This reduction in its proposed territory was not pleasing to those citizens of Iowa who wished the state to have its boundaries to include the Minnesota river from the Blue Earth to the Mississippi and the Mississippi from the Minnesota river to the Missouri state line. This changing in the boundary was really a political measure, a part of those battles in congress over free and slave states which preceded the Civil war. The boundaries as proposed by congress were rejected by the people of Iowa after a bitter campaign. August 4, 1846, congress passed a second enabling act, which was accepted by the people by a narrow margin of 456, the vote being 9,492 for and 9,036 against. This second act placed the northern boundary of Iowa still farther south, but added territory to the west. The northern boundary of Iowa, as described in the enabling act, was identical with the parallel of 43° 30' north, from the Big Sioux river eastward to the Mississippi. This, with the exception of the short distance from the Big Sioux river to the present western boundary of Minnesota, is the present southern boundary of our state. Minnesota's southern boundary, as thus described, was carefully surveyed and marked within six years of its acceptance by Iowa. The work was authorized March 3, 1849, and two appropriations of \$1,500 each were soon made. The survey was completed during the years 1849 to 1852, at a total cost of \$32,277.73. Although the work was done with the best instruments then known, an error of twenty-three chains, evidently due to carelessness, was discovered within a year. Iowa was admitted as a state December 28, 1846.

**Wisconsin State.** Wisconsin soon wished to become a state. The northwestern boundary provoked considerable discussion both in congress and in the two constitutional conventions which were called. There were some who wished to include all the remaining portion of the northwest territory within the boundaries of the new proposed state. The two prevailing coteries, however, were the ones between whom the fight really centered. One body wished the northwestern boundary of the new state (Wisconsin) to extend up the Mississippi as far as the Rum river, where the city of Anoka is now situated, thence northeasterwardly to the first rapids of the St. Louis river and thence to Lake Superior. The residents of the St. Croix valley, and those living on the east side of the Mississippi, between the St. Croix and the Rum river, constituted the other party and objected to being included in the proposed state of Wisconsin. They declared that they were separated from the settled portions of Wisconsin by hundreds of miles of barren land, and still more greatly separated by a difference in the interests and character of the inhabitants. They proposed that the northwest boundary of the new state



should be a line drawn due south from Shagwamigan bay, on Lake Superior, to the intersection of the main Chippewa river, and from thence down the middle of said river to its debouchure into the Mississippi. Residents of the district affected, and also about Fort Snelling and on the west bank of the Mississippi farther up, joined in a memorial to congress, citing the grave injustice that would be done the proposed territory of Minnesota if it were left without a single point on the Mississippi below St. Anthony's falls, the limit of navigation. Among those who signed this memorial were H. H. Sibley and Alexander Faribault. The result of the controversy was a compromise adopting a middle line along the St. Croix and St. Louis rivers.

The enabling act for the state of Wisconsin, approved August 6, 1846, provided: "That the people of the territory of Wisconsin be and they are hereby authorized to form a constitution and state government \* \* \* with the following boundaries, to-wit: \* \* \* thence through the center of Lake Superior to the mouth of the St. Louis river, thence up the main channel of said river to the first rapids in the same, above the Indian village, according to Nicollet's map; thence due south to the main branch of the River St. Croix; thence down the main channel of said river to the Mississippi; thence down the main channel of said river to the northwest corner of the state of Illinois, thence due east \* \* \*." This is the first and incidentally the present description of Minnesota's eastern boundary. (United States Statutes at Large, Vol. 9, page 56.)

The convention that framed the constitution of Wisconsin in 1847-48 strongly desired the Rum river as their western boundary. After accepting the boundary chosen by congress the convention recommended a line which, if agreeable to congress, should replace the one in the enabling act. The proposed boundary, which was rejected, was described as follows: Leaving the aforesaid boundary line at the first rapids of the St. Louis river, thence in a direct line, bearing southwestwardly to the mouth of the Iskodewabo or Rum river, where the same empties into the Mississippi river (at Anoka) thence down the main channel of the said Mississippi river to the aforesaid boundary. (Charters and Constitutions of the United States, Part II, page 2030.)

**Minnesota Territory.** The events which led up to the establishing of Minnesota as a territory can be given but brief mention here. Sufficient is it to say that for three years after the admission of Iowa (in 1846) the area that is now Minnesota, west of the Mississippi, was practically a no-man's land. December 18, 1846, Morgan L. Martin, delegate from Wisconsin territory, gave notice to the house of representatives that "at an early day" he would ask leave to introduce a bill establishing the territorial government of Minnesota. The name, which is the Indian term

for what was then the river St. Peter (Pierre) and has now become its official designation, was, it is believed, applied to the proposed territory at the suggestion of Joseph R. Brown. During its consideration by congress the bill underwent various changes. As reported back to the house, the name "Minnesota" had been changed by Stephen A. Douglas to "Itasca." Mr. Martin immediately moved that the name "Minnesota" be placed in the bill in place of "Itasca." "Chippewa," "Jackson" and "Washington" were also proposed. After many motions, counter motions and amendments, "Minnesota" was placed in the bill, which with a minor change passed the house. In the senate it was rejected. A second attempt was made two years later. January 10, 1848, Stephen A. Douglas gave due notice to the senate that "at a future day" he would introduce a bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. He brought in the bill February 23. It was several times read, was amended, referred to committee and discussed, but congress adjourned August 14 without taking ultimate action on the proposition.

In the meantime Wisconsin was admitted to the Union May 29, 1848, and the western half of what was then St. Croix county was left outside the new state. The settled portions of the area thus cut off from Wisconsin by its admission to statehood privileges were in the southern part of the peninsula of land lying between the Mississippi and the St. Croix.

The people of this area were now confronted with a serious problem. As residents of the territory of Wisconsin they had enjoyed the privileges of citizenship in the United States. By the creation of the state of Wisconsin they were disfranchised and left without the benefits of organized government. Thus, Stillwater, which had been the governmental seat of a growing county (St. Croix), was left outside the pale of organized law. Legal minds disagreed on the question of whether the minor civil officers, such as justices of the peace, created under the territorial organization, were still qualified to exercise the authority of their positions. At a meeting held at St. Paul, in July, 1848, the citizens of that (then) village considered the question of the formation of a new territory. August 5 a meeting of citizens of the area west of the St. Croix was held at Stillwater, and it was decided to call a general convention at that place, August 26, 1848, for a three-fold purpose: 1—To elect a territorial delegate to congress. 2—To organize a territory with a name other than Wisconsin. 3—To determine whether the laws and organization of the old territory of Wisconsin were still in effect now that a part of that territory was organized as a state. In the call for this meeting, the signers called themselves, "We, the undersigned citizens of Minnesota territory." The meeting was held pursuant to the call. Action was taken in regard to the first proposition by the

election of H. H. Sibley, who was authorized to proceed to Washington and use such efforts as were in his power to secure the organization of the territory of Minnesota. In regard to the second proposition, a memorial was addressed to the President of the United States, stating the reasons why the organization of Minnesota territory was necessary. The third proposition presented technical points worthy of the attention of the wisest legal minds. The state of Wisconsin had been organized, but the territory of Wisconsin had not been abolished. Was not, therefore, the territory still in existence, and did not its organization and its laws still prevail in the part of the territory that had not been included in the state? If territorial government was in existence would it not give the residents thereof a better standing before the nation in their desire to become Minnesota territory? Might not this technicality give the delegate a seat in congress when otherwise he must, as simply the representative of an unorganized area, make his requests in the lobby and to the individual members? John Catlin, who had been secretary of the territory of Wisconsin before the organization of that state, declared that the territory still existed in the area not included in the organized state and that he was the acting governor. Accordingly, the people of the cut-off portion organized as the "Territory of Wisconsin," and named a day for the election of a delegate. In the closely contested election held October 30, 1848, Sibley won out against Henry M. Rice and accordingly made his way to Washington, technically from the "Territory of Wisconsin," actually as a representative of the proposed territory of Minnesota. As a matter of fact, indeed, Sibley, living at Mendota, had ceased to be a citizen of the territory of Wisconsin in 1838, when Iowa territory was created, and was a resident of the part of Iowa territory which the organization of the state of Iowa had left without a government, rather than of that territory in question (between the Mississippi and the St. Croix) which the admission of Wisconsin as a state had left without a government. Sibley was, however, after much opposition, admitted to congress and given a seat January 15, 1849. He at once set about securing friends for the proposition to create Minnesota territory. December 4, 1848, a few days previous to Sibley's admission to congress, Stephen A. Douglas had announced that it was his intention to introduce a new bill to establish the territory of Minnesota. Like the previous attempt, this bill underwent various vicissitudes. As passed, March 3, 1849, the act creating the territory read as follows: "Be it enacted, \* \* \* That from and after the passage of this act, all that part of the territory of the United States which lies within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning in the Mississippi river at a point where the line of 43° and 30' of north latitude crosses the same, thence running due west on said line, which is



the northern boundary of the state of Iowa, to the northwest corner of the said state of Iowa; thence southerly along the western boundary of said state to the point where said boundary strikes the Missouri river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the Missouri river to the mouth of the White Earth river; thence up the middle of the main channel of the White Earth river to the boundary line between the possessions of the United States and Great Britain; thence east and south of east along the boundary line between the possession of the United States and Great Britain to Lake Superior; thence in a straight line to the northernmost point of the state of Wisconsin, in Lake Superior; thence along the western boundary of the state of Wisconsin to the Mississippi river; thence down the main channel of said river to the place of beginning, and the same is hereby erected into a temporary government by the name of the territory of Minnesota."

**State of Minnesota.** The people of the territory of Minnesota were not long content with a territorial government. In the words of A. N. Winchell, "December 24, 1856, the delegate from the territory of Minnesota introduced a bill to authorize the people of that territory to form a constitution and state government. The bill limited the proposed state on the west by the Red River of the North and the Big Sioux river. It was referred to the committee on territories, of which Mr. Grow, of Pennsylvania, was chairman. January 31, 1857, the chairman reported a substitute, which differed from the original bill in no essential respect except in regard to the western boundary. The change there consisted in adopting a line through Traverse and Big Stone lakes, due south from the latter to the Iowa line. The altered boundary cut off a narrow strip of territory, estimated by Mr. Grow to contain between five and six hundred square miles. Today the strip contains such towns as Sioux Falls, Watertown and Brookings. The substitute had a stormy voyage through congress, especially in the senate, but finally completed the trip on February 25, 1857."

The enabling act, as passed and approved February 26, 1857, defined the boundaries of Minnesota as follows: "Be it enacted, \* \* \* That the inhabitants of that portion of the territory of Minnesota which is embraced within the following limits, to-wit: Beginning at the point in the center of the main channel of the Red River of the North, where the boundary line between the United States and the British possessions crosses the same; thence up the main channel of said river to that of Bois des Sioux river; thence (up) the main channel of said river to Lake Travers; then up the center of said lake to the southern extremity thereof; thence in a direct line to the head of Big Stone lake; thence through its center to its outlet; thence by a due south line to the



north line of the state of Iowa; thence east along the northern boundary of said state to the main channel of the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of said river and following the boundary line of the state of Wisconsin, until the same intersects the St. Louis river; thence down said river to and through Lake Superior, on the boundary line of Wisconsin and Michigan, until it intersects the dividing line between the United States and the British possessions; thence up Pigeon river and following said dividing line to the place of beginning; be and the same are thereby authorized to form for themselves a constitution and state government, by the name of the state of Minnesota, and to come into the Union on an equal footing with the original states, according to the federal constitution."

These boundaries were accepted without change and are the boundaries of the state at the present time. The state was admitted May 11, 1858.

**Summary.** It will therefore be seen that the territorial claim of title to Wright county was first embraced in the paper grant to Spain, May 4, 1493. It was subsequently included in the indefinite claims made by Spain to lands north and northwest of her settlements in Mexico, Florida and the West Indies; by the English to lands west of their Atlantic coast settlements, and by the French to lands south, west and southwest of their Canadian settlements. The first definite claim to territory now embracing Wright county was made by La Salle at the mouth of the Mississippi, March 8, 1682, in the name of the king of France, and the second (still more definite) by Perrot, not far from the present site of Winona, May 8, 1689. This was also a French claim. France remained in tacit authority until February 10, 1763, when, upon England's acknowledging the French authority to lands west of the Mississippi, France, by a previous secret agreement, turned her authority over to Spain. October 1, 1800, Spain ceded the tract to France, but France did not take formal possession until November 30, 1803, and almost immediately, December 20, 1803, turned it over to the United States, the Americans having purchased it from Napoleon April 30 of that year.

March 26, 1804, the area that is now Wright county was included in the Louisiana district as a part of Indiana, and so remained until March 3, 1805. From March 3, 1805, to June 4, 1812, it was a part of Louisiana territory. From June 4, 1812, until August 10, 1820, it was a part of Missouri territory. From August 10, 1821, until June 28, 1834, it was outside the pale of all organized government, except that congress had general jurisdiction. From June 28, 1834, to April 20, 1836, it was a part of Michigan territory. From April 20, 1836, to June 12, 1838, it was a part of Wisconsin territory. From June 12, 1838, to December 28, 1846, it was a part of the territory of Iowa. From December





28, 1846, to March 3, 1849, it was again without territorial affiliation. From March 3, 1849, to May 11, 1858, it was a part of Minnesota territory, and on the latter date became an integral part of that sovereign state.

## CHAPTER V.

### THE EXPLORERS.

**Groseilliers and Radisson—Hennepin and Duluth—Le Sueur and Charville—Carver—Pike—Ft. Snelling Established—Cass and Schoolcraft—Beltrami—Nicollet—Surveys—Chronology.**

The French explorers from the settlements in Canada and about the Great Lakes gradually began to penetrate toward Minnesota. At various times traders, adventurers and priests disappeared from these settlements. What deaths they met or what experiences they underwent will never be known. What places they visited in the wilderness of the upper Mississippi remains a mystery. With the seventeenth century, however, the area that is now Minnesota began to be known to the civilized world.

**Groseilliers and Radisson.** The meager accounts which these two explorers have left of their two expeditions which are supposed to have penetrated into Minnesota, are capable of more than one interpretation. Dr. Warren Upham believes that Groseilliers and Radisson, the first known white explorers of Minnesota, entered it near the southeast corner, and proceeded up the Mississippi through Lake Pepin to Prairie Island. Here the French explorers and the Indians that accompanied them, together with other Indians, spent the year 1655-1656. Thus when Cromwell ruled Great Britain and Ireland, when the Puritan theocracy was at the height of its glory in New England, and when the great emigration of Cavaliers was still going on to Virginia, Minnesota saw its first white man—unless indeed the Scandinavians visited this region centuries before, as the Kensington Stone avers.

About New Years, 1660, if we may trust Radisson's narration and its interpretation, our two "Frenchmen" are again in Minnesota. Traveling with a big band of Indians, they passed a severe January and February, with attendant famine, probably (according to Prof. Winchell) at Knife lake, Kanabec county. According to Hon. J. V. Brower (in his monograph "Kathio," 1901) the lake was called Knife lake and the Dakota tribe of this region the Knife tribe (Issanti) because early that spring deputations of Dakotas came to the encampment and here for the first time procured steel knives from the white men and from



the Indian band that was with them. Until this time the Stone Age had ruled supreme in the realm of Wright, but now we may well suppose that within a short time many an enterprising brave cherished as his most precious possession one of these magic knives that cut like a stroke of lightning. Very soon after meeting these Dakotas at Knife lake, Groseilliers and Radisson went to the great Dakota village at Mille Laes, and were there received with every mark of friendship and respect.

Now follows the story of a seven days' trip to the prairie home of the "nation of the Boefe" (buffalo), that is to say, the Dakotas living farther west and south. This story seems likely to be fiction, but if it is true, there is a fair chance that it was to the region just north of the "Big Woods," the journey went. This was the nearest and most accessible buffalo country from Mille Laes. So it is possible that these two Frenchmen were the first white men to approach Wright county. But the supposition favored by Winchell is that they went due south. However that may be, it is certain that with Groseilliers and Radisson the first glimmer of European civilization reached Wright county.

**Hennepin and Du Luth.** In journeying from the Mille Laes region, down what is now the Rum river into the Mississippi river, Hennepin and Du Luth and their companions in 1680 passed within a few miles of Wright county.

Robert Cavalier, better known in history as the *Sieur de la Salle*, who had built a fort near Lake Peoria, Illinois, decided in February, 1680, to send from there an expedition up the Mississippi. For this task he selected three of his associates. Accordingly, on February 29, 1680, Father Hennepin, with two companions, Picard du Gay (Anthony Auguelle) and Michael Accault (also rendered d'Accault, Ako, d'Ako and Dacan), the latter of whom was in military command of the party, set out in a canoe. They paddled down the Illinois to its mouth, where they were detained by floating ice in the Mississippi until March 12. On the afternoon of April 11, while on their way up the Mississippi, they were met by a band of Sioux on the warpath against the Illinois and Miami nation. Being informed, however, that the Miamis had crossed the river and were beyond their reach, the Indians turned northward, taking the Frenchmen with them as captives. The journey up the river occupied nineteen days.

At the end of the nineteen days, the party landed near the present site of St. Paul, and then continued by land five days until they reached the Mille Laes region. There Aquipaguetin, the chief who had previously been unfriendly to a certain extent, adopted Hennepin in place of the son he had lost. The other two Frenchmen were adopted by other families. After several months in the Mille Laes region, Hennepin and Picard were given permission in July, 1680, to go down the Mississippi to the mouth of

the Wisconsin, where they expected that La Salle would send them supplies.

On their southward journey, accompanied by a Sioux chief, Ouasicoude (Wacoota) and a band of Indians, the Frenchmen descended the Rum river, and camped on an eminence opposite what is now the city of Anoka. Accault was left as a hostage. Continuing down the river with the Indians, Hennepin and Pickard came to St. Anthony Falls, which Hennepin named in honor of his patron saint. On July 11, 1680, while hunting for the mouth of the Wisconsin river, the party was overtaken by Hennepin's savage adopted father, Aquipaguetin, with ten warriors. The two Frenchmen and the Indians then spent some time in the vicinity of Winona, hiding their meat near the mouth of the Chippewa, and then hunting on the prairies further down the river, the old men of the tribe watching on the river bluffs for enemies while the warriors killed buffaloes.

July 25, 1680, the party encountered Daniel Graysolon, Du Luth and five French soldiers. There is some doubt about the exact spot where this meeting took place, but it was probably near the southeast corner of Minnesota, or possibly a little further south. After the meeting, the eight white men, accompanied by the Indians, went up the river. Du Luth had been exploring the country of the Sioux and the Assiniboinés, west of Lake Superior, for two years, and had secured the friendship of these very Indians who had captured Hennepin. Consequently, when he learned what had happened since he last saw them, he rebuked them for their treatment of the priest, saying that Hennepin was his brother. The party reached the Issanti villages (the Mille Lacs region) August 14, 1680. No mention is made of the route which they took.

Toward the end of September the Frenchmen left the Indians to return to the French settlements. A chart of the route was given them by Ouasicoude, the great chief. The eight Frenchmen then set out. Hennepin gives the number as eight, though it would seem that the number was nine, for Hennepin and Pickard had met Du Luth with five soldiers, and when reaching the Issanti villages they must have been rejoined by Accault, though possibly the last named stayed with the Indians and pursued his explorations. The party passed down the Rum river in the fall of 1680, and started the descent of the Mississippi. After reaching the Wisconsin they went up that river to the portage, thence up the Fox river, thence to Green Bay, and thence to the settlements in Canada.

Thus Hennepin and Du Luth, in their trips in this vicinity, missed what is now Wright county. Accault, one of Hennepin's companions, had been left with the Indians near the present site of Anoka, when Hennepin and Arguille took the memorable down-

the-river trip on which they met Du Luth. Accault took many journeys with the Indians, even visiting the Itasca region, and it is not improbable that he may have passed Wright county, or even hunted within its present borders.

**Le Sueur and Charleville.** From 1681 to 1699, Nicholas Perrot made numerous trips to the country of the upper Mississippi river. Several of his posts were located in the vicinity of the lower end of Lake Pepin. From there he sent out numerous expeditions. One of these expeditions was probably that of Le Sueur and Charleville, who, with the possible exception of Accault, are believed to have been the first white men who ever gazed upon the fair prospect that is now Wright county. This trip was taken about 1690.

Le Sueur wrote an account of this trip to refute certain fictitious narrations by Mathieu Sagan. Le Sueur passed Wright county, in his trip above the Falls of St. Anthony, and possibly went as far up as the outlet of Sandy Lake. Very probably Charleville, whose narration of a similar early expedition of a hundred leagues on the part of the Mississippi above St. Anthony Falls has been preserved, was a companion of Le Sueur, so that the two accounts relate to the same canoe trip. Charleville declares that he was accompanied by two Canadian Frenchmen and two Indians. It is of interest to note that Charleville and Le Sueur were relatives. As in Le Sueur's description of the sources of the great river, Charleville also states that the Indians spoke of the Mississippi as having many sources.

Dr. Warren Upham, secretary of the Minnesota State Historical Society, in a letter says: "Doubtless numerous French and British fur traders and explorers had voyaged along your part of the Mississippi many times during more than a century preceding the expedition of Pike, whose narrative journal is our first detailed record of travel on that part of our great river. Probably the earliest explorers were Le Sueur and Charleville, about the year 1690 or earlier. They made a canoe voyage far up the Mississippi, probably, as Brower and Hill have supposed, to a northern limit at the outlet of Sandy lake."

In his excellent and monumental work, "Minnesota in Three Centuries," in Vol. I, pp. 253-4, Upham says: "Brower and Hill come to the conclusion that on the Mississippi at the outlet of Sandy lake, a village of Sioux doubtless then existed, as it has also been during the last century or longer the site of an Ojibway village. The estimates noted, that the distance traveled above the Falls of St. Anthony was about a hundred French leagues, and that an equal distance of the river's course still separated the voyageurs from its sources, agree very closely with the accurate measurements now made by exact surveys, if Le Sueur's journey ended at Sandy lake.

“Very probably Charleville, whose narration of a similar early expedition of a hundred leagues on the part of the Mississippi above these falls is preserved by Du Pratz in his ‘History of Louisiana,’ was a companion of Le Sueur, so that the two accounts relate to the same canoe trip. Charleville said that he was accompanied by two Canadian Frenchmen and two Indians; and it is remarkable that Charleville, like Le Sueur, was a relative of the brothers Iberville and Bienville, who afterwards were governors of Louisiana.”

Le Sueur's subsequent explorations were interesting. In the spring of 1695 he and his followers erected a trading post or fort on Isle Pelee, now Prairie Island, just above Red Wing. Early in the summer of 1695 he returned to Montreal with some Indians, among whom was a Sioux chief named Tioscate, the latter being the first Sioux chief to visit Canada. Tioscate died while in Montreal.

In September, 1700, Le Sueur and a party of Frenchmen, in a sailing and rowing vessel and two canoes, came up the Mississippi from its mouth, on his way to a place near the present site of Mankato, where he believed copper was to be found. He spent the ensuing winter on the Blue Earth river, and in the spring of 1701 he started down the river with a part of his followers and with a load of green earth which he believed to be copper. In due time he reached the Gulf of Mexico. The party whom he had left at the garrison on the Blue Earth followed him down the river soon afterward. The fact that seven French traders who had been stripped naked by the Sioux took refuge in Le Sueur's fort on the Blue Earth, and the further fact that those whom he left at the fort, encountered while going down the Mississippi a party of thirty-six Frenchmen from Canada at the mouth of the Wisconsin, shows that aside from the explorers recorded in history, various Frenchmen, now unknown, penetrated this region from time to time even at that early day.

**Carver.** By the treaty of 1763 France divided its possessions in the Mississippi valley between England and Spain, England taking the land on the east of the river, nearly to the mouth, and Spain the land on the west. This ended French domain in the Mississippi valley, though the French traders still maintained their activities, some unlawfully and some under the pretense of having transferred their allegiance to the British. But the period of French exploration had ended. Jonathan Carver was born in Connecticut in 1732, served in the French and Indian wars and in 1766 was sent by the British government to explore the Northwest. He reached Minnesota from the Great Lakes by way of the Fox, Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers. He was probably the first man of English blood to see Wright county. He was accompanied by a French Canadian and several Mohawk Indians. He



spent the winter of 1766-67 among the Sioux of the Northwest. In the fall of 1766 when he reached the mouth of the Minnesota he was compelled to leave his canoe by reason of the ice. With a young Winnebago chief he continued his trip on foot up the Mississippi river as far as the mouth of the Elk river, in Sherburne county, opposite Otsego township in Wright county. He turned back November 21. In his travels he calls the Elk river the St. Francis river and confuses it with the Rum river which Hennepin had called the St. Francis. He remarks that no other white men but he and Hennepin have ever ascended the Mississippi river so far. In this he was mistaken and the trips of Le Sueur and Charleville were already on record.

After various explorations, Carver, in the spring of 1767 started for Prairie du Chien where he hoped to purchase goods and supplies. Failing in this object he gave up the idea of returning to the central Minnesota region and reached Lake Superior by way of the Chippewa river and the upper streams of the St. Croix.

He afterward claimed that he made a treaty with the Sioux granting him a tract of land about a hundred miles wide along the east bank of the Mississippi from the Falls of St. Anthony to the southeastern end of Lake Pepin. Before he could get this deed acknowledged in England the Revolutionary war broke out. On the strength of this treaty many claims were from time to time presented to the United States government, but congress has always refused to recognize the claim of Carver's heirs and successors.

**Pike.** The Revolutionary war coming soon after Carver's trip interrupted English exploration of the Northwest. The Spanish government during its years of nominal possession of the upper Mississippi sent no explorers to this region. The Louisiana purchase was transferred to the United States in 1803, and efforts were soon made to explore the new possession. Zebulon M. Pike was born in what is now Trenton, N. J., January 5, 1779, entered the army at fifteen, and became a first lieutenant at twenty. In 1805 Pike received orders to conduct an expedition to the upper rivers and lakes for several purposes. He was to negotiate treaties with the Indians, to secure a conformity with the laws of the United States by the agents of the Northwest company and others engaged in the fur trade and to extend geographical exploration. He started from St. Louis, August 9, 1805, with twenty soldiers. September 23, 1805, Pike made a treaty with the Indians ceding tracts of land for military purposes at the mouth of the Minnesota and at the mouth of St. Croix. He continued north, reached Pike Rapids in Morrison county, October 16, stayed a part of the winter there, started again December 10, 1805, went as far north as Sandy, Leech and Cass lakes,

explained the object of his visit to the fur traders and returned to Pike Rapids, March 5, 1806. April 7, he started down the river and reached St. Louis on the last of April, 1806.

Pike kept a diary of his adventures. In writing of the first few days above St. Anthony Falls, which included their trip past Wright county, Pike indites the following particulars:

"October 4, Friday. Rained in the morning but the wind serving, we embarked, though extremely raw and cold. Opposite to the mouth of the Crow river we found a bark canoe, cut to pieces with tomahawks, and the paddles broken on shore: a short distance higher up we saw five more, and continued to see the wrecks until we found eight. From the form of the canoes, my interpreter pronounced them to be Sioux; and some broken arrows to be the Sauters. The paddles were also marked with the Indian sign of men and women killed. From all these circumstances we drew this inference, that the canoes had been the vessels of a party of Sioux who had been attacked and all killed or taken by the Sauters (also spelled Saulters, meaning the Ojibways, likewise called the Chippewas). Time may develop this transaction. My interpreter was much alarmed, assuring me that it was probable that at our first encounter with the Chippewas they would take us for Sioux traders, and fire on us before we could come to an explanation; that they had murdered three Frenchmen whom they found on the shore about this place last spring; but notwithstanding his information I was on shore all the afternoon in pursuit of elk. Caught a curious little animal on the prairie which my Frenchman termed a prairie mole (a gopher) but it is very different from the mole of the states. Distance sixteen miles.

"October 5, Saturday. Hard water and ripples all day. Passed several old Sioux encampments, all fortified. Found five litters in which sick or wounded men have been carried. At this place a hard battle was fought between the Sioux and the Sauters in the year 1800. Distance eleven miles.

"October 6, Sunday. Early in the morning discovered four elk, they swam the river, I pursued them, and wounded one who made his escape into a marsh; saw two droves of elk. I killed some small game, and joined the boats near night. Found a small 'red capot' hung upon a tree; this my interpreter informed me was a sacrifice by some Indians to the 'bon Dieu.' I determined to lay by and hunt the next day. Killed three prairie hens and two pheasants. This day saw the first elk. Distance 12 miles.

"October 7, Monday. Lay by in order to dry my corn, clothing, etc., and to have an investigation into the conduct of my sergeant, against whom some charges were exhibited. Sent several of my men out hunting. I went towards evening and killed some prairie

hens; the hunters were unsuccessful. Killed three prairie hens and six pheasants.

"October 8, Tuesday. Embarked early, and made a very good day's march, had but three rapids to pass all day. Some woodland on the west side, oak; but the whole bottom covered with the prickly ash. I make a practice to oblige every man who complains of indisposition to march, by which I had some flankers on both sides of the river who were excellent guards against surprise; they also served as hunters. We had but one raccoon killed by all. Distance twenty miles.

"October 9, Wednesday. Embarked early; wind ahead; barrens and prairie. Killed one deer and four pheasants. Distance three miles.

"October 10, Thursday. Came to large islands and strong water early in the morning. Passed the place at which Mr. Reinville and Mons. Perlier wintered in 1797; passed a cluster of islands, more than twenty in a course of four miles; these I called Beaver islands, from the immense sign of those animals, for they have dams on every island, and roads from them every two or three rods. Encamped at the foot of the Grand Sauk rapids. Distance sixteen and a half miles."

Dr. Coues, in the edition of Pike's Journal, published in 1895, and edited by him, identifies the place of Pike's camp for the night of October 4 as "half way between Elk river and Monticello." The camp on the night of October 5 he places in the "vicinity of Monticello;" the camp on the night of October 6 "about one-third of the way from Monticello to Clearwater," the camp on the night of October 8 in the "vicinity of the Clearwater river," and on October 9 only "three miles" further, between Plum creek and St. Augusta.

In writing of the last few days of his return trip to St. Anthony falls during which he again passed Wright county, Pike says:

"April 7, Monday. Loaded our boats and departed forty minutes past ten o'clock. At one o'clock arrived at Clear river, where we found my canoe and man. Although I had promised the Fols Avoins chief to remain one night, yet time was too precious, and we put off; passed the Grand (Sauk) rapids, arrived at Mr. Dickson's just before sundown; we were saluted with three rounds, and he treated all my men with a supper and a dram. Mr. Dickson, Mr. Paulier (Porlier) and myself sat up until four o'clock in the morning.

"April 8, Tuesday. Were obliged to remain this day on account of some information to be obtained here. I spent the day in making a rough chart of St. Peters, making notes on the Sioux, etc., settling the affairs of the Indian department with Mr. Dickson, for whose communications, and those of Mr. Paulier,

I am infinitely indebted. Made every necessary preparation for an early embarkation.

“April 9, Wednesday. Rose early in the morning and commenced my arrangements. Having observed two Indians drunk, during the night, and finding that the liquor had been furnished them by a Mr. Greignor, or Jennesse, I sent my interpreter to them to request that they would not sell any strong liquor to the Indians, upon which Mr. Jennesse demanded the restrictions in writing, which were given to him. On demanding his license, it amounted to no more than merely a certificate that he had paid the tax required by law of the Indiana territory on all retailers of merchandise, but it was by no means an Indian license; however, I did not think proper to go into a more close investigation. Last night it was so cold that the water was covered with floating cakes of ice of a strong consistence. After receiving every mark of attention from Messrs. Dickson and Paulier, I took my departure at eight o'clock. At four p. m. arrived at the house of Mr. Paulier, twenty-five leagues, to whose brother I had a letter. Was received with politeness by him and a Mr. Veau; wintered along side of him on the very island at which we had camped in ascending.

“April 10, Thursday. Sailed at half past five o'clock; about seven passed Rum river, and at eight were saluted by six or seven lodges of Fols Avoins, amongst whom was a clerk of Mr. Dickson's. Those people had wintered on Rum river, and were waiting for their chiefs and traders to descend, in order to accompany them to the Prairie Des Chein. Arrived at the Falls of St. Anthony at ten o'clock.

**Ft. Snelling Established.** With the establishment of Ft. Snelling, the area of Wright county became more widely known, as the soldiers, traders and visitors there made many trips up the river past the county, and also conducted many hunting expeditions in the tracts lying between the Crow and the Clearwater rivers.

February 10, 1819, the Fifth Regiment United States Infantry was ordered to concentrate at Detroit preparatory to a trip which was to result in the maintaining of a post at the mouth of the St. Peter's (now Minnesota) river. After establishing various garrisons at different places, the troops started up the river from Prairie du Chien, Sunday, August 8, 1819. The troops numbered ninety-eight, rank and file. They were accompanied by twenty hired boatmen. There were fourteen keel boats for the troops, two large boats for stores, and a barge for Lieut.-Col. Harry Leavenworth, the commander, and Maj. Thomas Forsyth, the Indian agent. This expedition established at Mendota the military post now moved across the river and now known as Ft. Snelling.



May 10, 1823, the "Virginia," the first steamboat to navigate the upper Mississippi, arrived at Ft. Snelling, and thus what is now Wright county was placed in still closer communication with the outside world. On board, among others, were Maj. Lawrence Taliaferro and James Constance Beltrami, the Italian explorer.

**Cass and Schoolcraft.** Cass and Schoolcraft and their followers passed Wright county on July 29 or 30, 1820, on their way down the Mississippi river. On July 23 or 24, 1832, the Schoolcraft expedition, after having explored and named Lake Itasca, passed Wright county in the same direction.

General Lewis Cass was a remarkable man, having been a lawyer, brigadier general of 1812, governor of Michigan territory, minister to France, secretary of war in two cabinets, senator, and in 1848 Democratic candidate for the presidency. Henry Rowe Schoolcraft was an explorer, mineralogist, historian, author of some thirty books, and the holder of several Indian offices under the government. The Cass-Schoolcraft expedition left Detroit, May 26, 1820, accompanied by several distinguished men, and a number of Indians. The party reached the St. Louis river by way of Sault Ste. Marie, and the southern shore of Lake Superior. They made extensive explorations in the northern part of this state, and visited Red Cedar lake, now Cass lake, which they called the "source of the Mississippi." It was on their way to Ft. Snelling that the explorers passed Wright county.

When Schoolcraft and his companions explored and named Lake Itasca, July 13, 1832, they had reached northern Minnesota by way of Sault Ste. Marie as before, but, as on the previous journey, they started home by coming down the Mississippi to Ft. Snelling, and thus passed Wright county. It is probable that on the night of July 24 the party camped in Wright county. They embarked at 5 o'clock on the morning of July 25, and reached St. Anthony falls at noon.

**Beltrami.** Major Stephen H. Long ascended the Mississippi river to the Falls of St. Anthony in a six-oar skiff in 1817. In 1823, Major Long, accompanied by William H. Keating, and others, as well as by a detachment of soldiers, made a trip to Lake Winnipeg under orders from the War Department. Ascending the Mississippi river from Prairie du Chien to Ft. Snelling. At Ft. Snelling the party received reinforcements. It was there that Beltrami joined the expedition. Beltrami, an Italian, was one of the most picturesque of the early Minnesota explorers. His Italian name was Giacomo Constantino Beltrami but this was anglicized into James Constantine Beltrami. He was six feet high, of commanding appearance and high spirits. He traveled extensively in Europe, the United States and Mexico, and was the author of numerous books. The party ascended the Minne-

sota and the Red River of the North. At Pembina there was a change in the make-up of the expedition. The main party went from there to Lake Winnipeg, up Winnipeg river to the Lake of the Woods, along the Rainy river to Rainy lake, and finally to Thunder bay on Lake Superior. Thus they did not pass Wright county. But Beltrami, accompanied by Indian companions, left the party at Pembina and started back to Ft. Snelling. He explored the sources of the Mississippi and then descended that river. He passed Wright county on September 29 or 30.

**Nicollet.** Joseph Nicolas Nicollet was the author of a map published after his death in 1843. Nicollet acting under the United States War Department and Bureau of Engineers, made extensive exploring trips in the Northwest, and in 1836 made a canoe trip from Ft. Snelling up the Mississippi, and by portages beyond Leech lake, to Itasca lake, thence descending down the whole course of the upper Mississippi to the fort. He thus passed Wright county twice. The Crow and Clearwater rivers and minor Wright county streams appear on his map.

**Surveys.** The Third Guide Meridian is a straight line from the Iowa state line to the Mississippi river near Monticello. It does not cross the river there onto the east side, but starts again on the west side of the Mississippi river at Pine Knoll, about six miles west of Aitkin, and runs thence north to the International boundary crossing the Mississippi river at White Oak Point, about ten miles northwest of Pokegama falls.

This Third Guide Meridian, in its earliest part surveyed, from the state line north to near Monticello, was required to be run during the winter when the lakes and rivers were frozen, so that the distances could be measured on the ice and not be liable to the errors liable to triangulation.

From near Monticello, the Fifth Meridian surveys were carried north along the west side of the Mississippi by offsets from the Third Guide Meridian past St. Cloud, Little Falls and Crow Wing as far as to the Ninth Standard Parallel.

Hardin Nowlin surveyed five Congressional townships in 1855. They were township 120, ranges 23 and 24; township 121, ranges 23 and 24; township 120, range 24.

John O. Brunius, in 1856, surveyed township 118, ranges 25 and 26; and township 119, ranges 25 and 26. In 1857 he surveyed township 120, range 26.

Ed. P. Abbott surveyed township 120, range 25, in 1858.

A. H. Runyon in 1856 surveyed township 121, range 25; and township 122, ranges 25, 26 and 27.

Oscar Taylor, in 1856, surveyed township 121, ranges 26 and 27; township 118, range 28; township 119, range 28; township 120, range 28; and township 121, range 28.

E. N. Darling surveyed township 118, range 27, in 1856; and in 1857 he surveyed township 119, range 27, and township 120, range 27.

**Chronology.** Following is a summary of the history of Minnesota during the period of exploration:

1635. Jean Nicollet, an explorer from France, who had wintered in the neighborhood of Green Bay, brought to Montreal the first mention of the aborigines of Minnesota.

1659-60. Groseilliers and Radisson wintered among the Sioux of the Mille Lacs region, Minnesota, being its first white explorers. In a previous expedition, four years earlier, they are thought by some to have come to Prairie island, west of the main channel of the Mississippi, between Red Wing and Hastings.

1661. Father Rene Menard left Kewennaw, on Lake Superior, to visit the Hurons, then in northern Wisconsin, and was lost near the sources of the Black and Chippewa rivers. His breviary and cassock were said to have been found among the Sioux.

1679. July 2, Daniel Greyselon Du Lhut (Duluth) held a council with the Sioux at their principal settlement on the shore of Mille Laes. Du Lhut, in June, 1680, by way of the St. Croix river, reached the Mississippi and met Hennepin.

1680. Louis Hennepin, after captivity in the village of the Mille Laes Sioux, first saw the Falls of St. Anthony.

1689. May 8, Nicolas Perrot, at his Fort St. Antoine, on the Wisconsin shore of Lake Pepin, laid formal claim to the surrounding country for France. He built a fort also on the Minnesota shore of this lake, near its outlet, as well as other posts.

1690. (?) Le Sueur and Charleville ascended the Mississippi above St. Anthony falls.

1695. Le Sueur built a fort or trading post on Isle Pelee, now called Prairie island, above Lake Pepin.

1700. Le Sueur established Fort L'Huilier, on the Blue Earth river (near the mouth of the Le Sueur), and first supplied the Sioux with firearms.

1727. The French established a fort on the present site of Frontenac on Lake Pepin. Forts were also erected on nearly the same site in 1727 and 1750.

1728. Great flood in the Mississippi.

1763. By the treaty of Versailles, France ceded Minnesota, east of the Mississippi, to England, and west of it to Spain.

1766. Captain Jonathan Carver visited St. Anthony falls and Minnesota river. He claimed to have made a treaty with the Indians the following spring, in a cave, afterward called "Carver's Cave," within the present limits of St. Paul, at which he said they ceded to him an immense tract of land, long known as "Carver's Claim," but never recognized by government.

1796. Laws of the Ordinance of 1787 extended over the Northwest territory, including the northeastern third of Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river.

1798-99. The Northwestern Fur Company established itself in Minnesota.

1800. May 7, that part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi became a part of Indiana by the division of Ohio.

1803. April 30, that part of Minnesota west of the Mississippi, for the preceding forty years in possession of Spain as a part of Louisiana, was ceded to the United States by Napoleon Bonaparte, who had just obtained it from Spain.

1803-04. William Morrison, the first known white man to discover the source of the Mississippi river, visited Elk lake and explored the streams entering into the lake forming the head of the river.

1805. Lieut. Z. M. Pike visited Minnesota to establish government relations there, and obtained the Fort Snelling reservation from the Dakotas.

1812. The Dakotas, Ojibways, and Winnebagoes, under the lead of hostile traders, joined the British during the war. Red river colony established by Lord Selkirk.

1819. Minnesota, east of the Mississippi river, became a part of Crawford county, Michigan. Fort Snelling established and a post at Mendota occupied by troops, under command of Colonel Leavenworth. Maj. L. Taliaferro appointed Indian agent, arriving April 19.

1820. Corner stone of Fort Snelling laid September 10. Governor Cass visited Minnesota and made a treaty of peace between the Sioux and Ojibways at Fort Snelling. Col. Josiah Snelling appointed to the command of the latter post.

1823. The first steamboat arrived at Mendota, May 10, Major Taliaferro and Beltrami being passengers. Maj. Stephen H. Long explored Minnesota river, the Red river valley, and the northern frontier. Beltrami explored sources of the Mississippi.

1826. Great flood on the Red river; a part of the colony driven to Minnesota, settling near Fort Snelling.

1832. Schoolcraft explored sources of Mississippi river, and named Lake Itasca (formerly called Elk lake).

1833. First mission established at Leech lake by Rev. W. T. Boutwell.

1834. The portion of Minnesota west of the Mississippi attached to Michigan. Gen. H. H. Sibley settled at Mendota.

1835. Catlin and Featherstonhaugh visited Minnesota.

1836. The territory of Wisconsin organized, embracing the part of Minnesota east of the Mississippi, the part on the west being attached to Iowa. Nicollet visited Minnesota.



1837. Governor Dodge, of Wisconsin, made a treaty, at Fort Snelling, with the Ojibways, by which the latter ceded all their pine lands on the St. Croix and its tributaries; a treaty was also effected at Washington with a deputation of Dakotas for their lands east of the Mississippi. These treaties led the way to the first actual settlements within the area of Minnesota.

## CHAPTER VI.

### FIRST SETTLEMENT.

**Civilization Approaches Wright County—Frenchmen Winter on Wright County Islands in 1805-06—Settlements in Adjacent Counties—Edmund Brissett Establishes Trading Post in Wright County—His Historic Trail to Lake Pulaski—Otsego and Monticello Settled—Early Census—Original Assessment Roll—Early Marriages.**

Civilization and settlement gradually approached Wright county as the pioneers and fur traders began to scatter to the north and northwest of Ft. Snelling.

As early as 1797, two traders, James Perlier (also written Paulier and Perlier) wintered on the Mississippi river somewhere below the present site of Sauk Rapids.

In 1806, Col. Robert Dickson seems to have had a trading post below the present site of Sauk Rapids. Below him, probably on one of the islands adjoining what is now Wright county, Perlier had an establishment in the winter of 1805-06, and there Perlier's brother and —— Veau spent the season.

Throughout the period of exploration, traders operated at various times at the mouth of the Rum river, a few miles below Wright county.

In 1819 Ft. Snelling was established at Mendota. May 10, 1823, the "Virginia," the first steamboat to reach Minnesota, arrived at Ft. Snelling. In time, settlements sprang up which have resulted in St. Paul and Minneapolis, and civilization began to approach still nearer to Wright county.

On the western side of the Mississippi, adventurous souls began to take scattered squatter claims in Hennepin county outside of the hamlet at St. Anthony (now a part of Minneapolis).

On the eastern side, in 1846, two brothers, Peter and Francis Partoille, started a trading post in Anoka county, at the mouth of the Rum river. In 1848 they sold out to Anthony Roberts. Quite a colony arrived in Anoka county in 1850 and settled in what is now Ramsey township.

In Sherburne county, across the Mississippi river from Wright county, a number of early settlements were made. In 1848 Pierre



OLD LOG CABIN



Bottineau built a trading post between Orono and Elk river. In 1850 he erected the Elk River House, a small tavern. Big Lake township was settled in 1848 by James, Eli and Newell Houghton, from Vermont. Joseph Brown settled in the same township in 1849. At an unknown date, probably in the late forties, Nathan Myrick and J. Davis had a trading post in what is now Clear Lake township, on the east side of the river, a mile below what afterward became the Clearwater ferry. In the same township, Isaac Marks and —— White opened a trading post in 1848. It was near what is popularly known as the "Big Bend" in the Mississippi. John H. Stevenson and John Townsend located in the same township in 1850.

Settlements were also made further north, on both sides of the Mississippi, especially about the mouth of the Watab river and at Sauk Rapids.

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The first white man to establish himself in what is now Wright county was Edmund Brissett. Brissett was a Canadian who came to Ft. Snelling in 1832 and engaged in carpenter work and interior woodwork. It was in 1839 that Brissett gave to a part of what is now St. Paul the name of "Pig's Eye," by which it was so long known. In time, Brissett became a fur trader. His principal post was near Lake Harriet, in Hennepin county. When the Winnebagoes began to occupy parts of what is now Wright county, Brissett opened a trading post at the west end of Lake Pulaski, in 1850. It is possible that he had also traded here the previous year. In 1851 he and his associates cut a road through the timber from Lake Harriet and Lake Calhoun to the present site of Buffalo, and from thence a trail to the west end of Lake Pulaski. After leaving Lake Calhoun the road passed along the west shores of Medicine lake, Independence lake, and Lake Sarah, crossing Crow river at Rockford, then passing north of the present Rockford and Buffalo road, and crossing the creek between the marsh and the lake. It was a crooked narrow track, but the traders used it extensively. The early settlers found this road of much service. The Brissett post was abandoned in 1855 when the Winnebagoes were removed to a reservation on the Blue Earth river.

In 1850 or 1851 Samuel E. Carriek established a trading post on the Mississippi within the limits of Wright county. It was located in Otsego township, on what is still known as Carriek's prairie. In 1852 Carriek located on a claim at the same point. This was the first farm opened in Wright county. After living on the place some ten years Carriek enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was captured in the advance on Atlanta, was kept during the winter in the Confederate prison on Belle island, and died at Andersonville in May, 1864.



John McDonald settled on section 17, Otsego township, on the site where the hamlet of Otsego was afterward located, July 31, 1852. McDonald was born in Maine, assisted in building the dam at St. Anthony (now a part of Minneapolis) in 1847; spent a short time in the lumber regions of the Rum and Swan rivers, then went to what is now Hudson, Wis.; returned to St. Anthony in 1849; assisted in erecting two mills there; was joined by his family: spent the winter of 1849-50 at what is now Little Falls, Minn.; then went back to Minneapolis; and in 1852 came to Otsego township. He was a member of the first board of county commissioners in 1855.

David McPherson also settled in Otsego township July 31, 1852. McPherson's residence here was brief. The reputed wealth of the Pike's Peak gold fields induced his emigration thither, from which locality he afterwards removed to Wisconsin.

While Carrick, McDonald and McPherson were making their first improvements in Otsego township, and Brissett was maintaining his post in Buffalo township, two young men, Herbert McCrory and Frederick M. Cadwell, settled in what is now Monticello township. They came in the summer of 1852 and located near the present townsite of Monticello.

No beaten track or highway then existed between the Otsego and Monticello settlements—naught save the tortuous Indian trail winding along the margin of the river; and it was not until the spring of 1854 that a wagon road was cut between these points by Mr. McCrory and others. Five days were required to hew out this rough passage through the forest, which even then was a barely passable route.

In 1852 or 1853 Archie Downie located at the mouth of Silver creek, in what is now Silver Creek township. He was connected with the Winnebago agency at Long Prairie, and looked after the Indians when they insisted on living in Wright county. In August, 1854, he took a claim in section 15. He was one of the first board of county commissioners in 1855, and in May, 1856, sold his claim to A. G. Descent, and left the country.

All the settlers previous to February 24, 1853, except the traders who held licenses, were squatters. But though the treaty which relinquished the Indian rights was not in force until February 24, 1853, it had been signed August 5, 1851, and in anticipation of the day when it should be proclaimed these pioneers "squatted" on the land and thus made preparations to properly file on the claims when the land should be legally open to occupation.

In 1853 George W. and James A. Carrick settled on Carrick's Prairie in Otsego township. Alva L. Cooley also settled in the same locality.

In 1854 new settlers came to Otsego and Monticello and settlements were made in Clearwater and Frankford.

In 1855 Franklin, Rockford, Victor, Woodland and Chatham received their first settlers, and Buffalo and Silver Creek received their first permanent settlers.

Maple Lake, Middleville, Stockholm, Albion, Marysville, Cokato, French Lake and Corinna were first settled in 1856.

It was not until 1857 that Southside received its first pioneers.

After the influx was started it continued at a rapid rate, and at the time of the Sioux Uprising the county was fairly well settled.

There were 598 people in Wright county when the census was taken in 1855, 385 males and 213 females. In Big Bend precinct there were forty-two males and 20 females; in Monticello precinct there were 146 males and eighty-four females; while in Pleasant Grove precinct there were 197 males and 109 females.

Big Bend Precinct. (Bounded on the east by the west line of J. O. Haven's claim, on the south by the south line of the county, on the west by the Clearwater river, on the north by the Mississippi river.) Census taken June 27 and 28, 1855, by H. W. McCrory. First is given the name of the head of the family, next the number of males in the family, next the number of females in the family, and lastly the total number of inmates in the family.

J. F. Palmer, 1, 0, 1; G. H. Palmer, 1, 0, 1; S. Oakes, 4, 2, 6; J. S. Lowell, 1, 1, 2; Joshua Lowell, 1, 0, 1; Selah Markham, 4, 5, 9; David Perkins, 1, 0, 1; William Vorse, 2, 2, 4; E. Chowan, 1, 0, 1; Elias Chowan, 1, 0, 1; J. Dow, 2, 2, 4; O. E. Dow, 1, 1, 2; A. Loftis, 1, 0, 1; William McDonald, 1, 0, 1; John McDonald, 1, 0, 1; A. McDonald, 1, 0, 1; Philo McDonald, 1, 0, 1; Newell McDonald, 1, 0, 1; Harriet McDonald, 0, 1, 1; John Farwell, 1, 0, 1; S. Stevens, 1, 0, 1; Orrin Laughton, 3, 3, 6; Luther Laughton, 1, 1, 2; J. Laughton, 1, 0, 1; Nathan Laughton, 1, 0, 1; A. Thrall, 1, 1, 2; A. Hulett, 1, 0, 1; James Hebbard, 3, 1, 4; E. Hebbard, 1, 0, 1; J. S. Locke, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Sanborn, 1, 0, 1.

Pleasant Grove Precinct. (Bounded on the east by Crow river, on the south by the north fork of Crow river, on the west by the west line of L. Dimick's claim, on the north by the Mississippi river.) Census taken June 23, 25 and 27, 1855, by Hiram Nickerson. First is given the name of the head of the family, next the number of males in the family, next the number of females in the family and lastly the total number of inmates in the family.

Caleb Chase, 3, 1, 4; J. Carrick, 3, 3, 6; A. Bartlett, 4, 1, 5; William Mann, 2, 2, 4; C. W. Kelley, 1, 0, 1; William H. Kelley, 1, 0, 1; J. H. Hyds, 1, 3, 4; William Butler, 1, 0, 1; S. Bream, 7, 4, 11; E. Mitchell, 8, 1, 9; William Wilmont, 1, 0, 1; A. Steng-

bein 3, 3, 6; F. Shrute, 1, 0, 1; H. Edger, 1, 0, 1; William Dean, 1, 0, 1; William Foster, 1, 0, 1; Thomas Dean, 1, 0, 1; John Zackman, 2, 2, 4; Phoelix Wry, 1, 0, 1; B. Haskner, 2, 2, 4; H. Voonea, 2, 2, 4; H. Demler, 2, 1, 3; Anthony Schaitiler, 1, 0, 1; Zosekey Sohler, 1, 0, 1; F. Bailing, 2, 0, 2; Martin Schooler, 1, 0, 1; Zoskey Aydt, 1, 0, 1; P. Schnider, 2, 5, 7; Z. G. Phnisillin, 1, 1, 2; A. Mayier, 1, 0, 1; W. Zisular, 1, 0, 1; F. Sangansomine, 4, 0, 4; E. Canigon, 1, 0, 1; Matthias Corole, 1, 0, 1; J. Voolbrugkt, 1, 0, 1; August Woolf, 1, 0, 1; Henry Woolf, 1, 0, 1; Christian Woolf, 1, 0, 1; Henry Snopaus, 1, 0, 1; Ezra Tubbs, 1, 0, 1; Philip Boyden, 1, 0, 1; Henry Bradley, 1, 2, 3; Henry Heap, 1, 1, 2; William P. Grey, 1, 0, 1; ——— Calderwood, 1, 0, 1; ——— Rice, 1, 0, 1; ——— Chapman, 1, 0, 1; J. Nickerson, 1, 0, 1; Belinda Spencer, 2, 2, 4; J. McDonald, 4, 1, 5; L. Cooley, 5, 2, 7; Alvah Cooley, 2, 3, 5; Charles Lambert, 1, 0, 1; D. P. Chase, 3, 5, 8; L. T. Carpenter, 1, 0, 1; D. W. Carpenter, 1, 0, 1; William Barnard, 1, 0, 1; J. Pipin, 3, 3, 6; William Heasley, 1, 0, 1; John Heasley, 1, 0, 1; David Corban, 2, 4, 6; Charles Lapland, 2, 2, 4; J. A. Mallette, 1, 0, 1; David McPherson, 3, 1, 4; William Corey, 1, 2, 3; L. Carrick, 5, 3, 8; L. Dimick, 1, 1, 2; William Mabie, 1, 3, 4; O. S. True, 1, 0, 1; O. Lascho, 1, 0, 1; D. F. Ingersoll, 5, 4, 9; J. Stamps, 1, 0, 1; E. H. Davis, 1, 0, 1; W. H. Rockief, 1, 0, 1; C. B. Jordan, 1, 0, 1; W. H. Jordan, 1, 0, 1; ——— Barnes, 1, 0, 1; ——— Ham, 1, 0, 1; J. Beckord, 1, 0, 1; L. Tubbs, 1, 0, 1; P. J. Beckord, 1, 0, 1.

Monticello Precinct. (Bounded on the east by the west line of L. Dimick's claim, on the south by the south line of the county, on the west by the west line of J. O. Haven's claim, on the north by the Mississippi river.) Census taken June 21, 22 and 27, 1855, by D. B. Sutton. First is given the name of the head of the family, next the number of males in the family, next the number of females in the family and lastly the total number of inmates in the family.

Thomas Anderson, 1, 1, 2; Thomas Melrose, 1, 0, 1; Joseph Brooks, 3, 3, 6; J. B. Locke, 1, 1, 2; J. O. Haven, 1, 1, 2; W. W. Sears, 1, 0, 1; Allen Descent, 1, 0, 1; Lewis Randall, 1, 0, 1; William Creighton, 1, 0, 1; J. B. Rich, 1, 0, 1; F. J. Barker, 1, 0, 1; William Hamilton, 1, 0, 1; F. W. Lisber, 1, 0, 1; A. L. Chick, 1, 0, 1; C. B. Whitcomb, 1, 0, 1; J. Whitcomb, 1, 0, 1; Frederick Emory, 1, 0, 1; B. Emory, 1, 0, 1; H. W. McCrory, 1, 0, 1; Henry L. Glazier, 1, 1, 2; R. M. Johnson, 1, 0, 1; William G. McCrory, 4, 5, 9; George W. McCrory, 2, 1, 3; J. C. Beekman, 1, 0, 1; J. Philips, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Walker, 1, 0, 1; H. Nickerson, 1, 0, 1; J. Snow, 1, 0, 1; A. Ball, 1, 0, 1; I. Snow, 1, 0, 1; J. Smith, 1, 2, 3; J. W. Baker, 1, 0, 1; Harrison Perkins, 1, 4, 5; James Perkins, 3, 2, 5; Polly E. Perkins, 0, 1, 1; J. Clifford, Jr., 1, 0, 1; A. W. Wood, 1, 0, 1; George Brown, 1, 6, 7; Joseph Brown, 1, 1, 2; C. S. Boyd, 4, 3, 7; H. Per-

kins, 3, 2, 5; Ira Hoar, 3, 3, 6; O. W. Slafter, 1, 1, 2; S. Hatch, 1, 0, 1; A. Stewart, 1, 0, 1; A. Bryant, 1, 0, 1; W. Leonard, 1, 0, 1; Charles Wedgewood, 1, 0, 1; L. F. Flanders, 1, 0, 1; A. Mitchell, 1, 2, 3; H. Hanaford, 1, 0, 1; M. Voorhees, 1, 0, 1; R. March, 1, 0, 1; R. Voorhees, 1, 0, 1; William Smart, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Hanaford, 1, 2, 3; A. B. Hanaford, 1, 3, 4; D. Hanaford, 1, 1, 2; William Wedgewood, 1, 1, 2; Ira Bailey, 1, 0, 1; Row Brasie, 5, 1, 6; David Mitchell, 1, 2, 3; Alexander Mitchell, 5, 3, 8; ——— Jordan, 1, 0, 1; Ira A. Wamsly, 1, 1, 2; George W. Bertram, 3, 3, 6; Andrew Bertram, 2, 1, 3; Silas Caswell, 1, 2, 3; J. D. Taylor, 1, 0, 1; Daniel Worthing, 1, 0, 1; C. Marshall, 1, 0, 1; W. H. Van Ness, 1, 1, 2; John Lamb, 1, 0, 1; H. Downer, 1, 0, 1; W. H. Proctor, 1, 1, 2; Carlos Caswell, 3, 3, 6; D. B. Sutton, 1, 1, 2; W. H. Mann, 1, 0, 1; Wyman Elliott, 1, 0, 1; James Elliott, 1, 0, 1; F. M. Cadwell, 1, 0, 1; Lewis Cadwell, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Waterman, 1, 0, 1; C. Davis, 3, 2, 5; C. C. Savory, 1, 0, 1; Nathaniel Holmes, 1, 0, 1; E. Heath, 1, 0, 1; J. Galery, 1, 0, 1; J. A. Tibbetts, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Tibbetts, 1, 3, 4; B. F. Tibbetts, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Thompson, 4, 3, 7; A. C. Riggs, 1, 0, 1; Levi Choate, 1, 0, 1; S. J. Mason, 1, 0, 1; James Chambers, 1, 0, 1; J. W. Locke, 1, 1, 2; J. C. Oakes, 1, 1, 2; J. Given, 1, 0, 1; Charles Marples, 1, 0, 1; Thomas Shaply, 1, 0, 1; W. W. Burritt, 1, 0, 1; C. Blanchard, 2, 1, 3; William Murch, 1, 0, 1; Samuel Wilder, 1, 0, 1; M. Shelliaveau, 3, 3, 6; J. M. Snow, 1, 0, 1; Hiram Crawford, 1, 1, 2; Benjamin Bursley, 3, 3, 6.

The meagre extent to which the county had been improved in 1855 is shown by the original assessment roll which is still preserved. There was no real estate assessment, as the title to the land was still vested in the government. Land improvements but not the land, were taxed. Taxes were also levied on buildings, stock, and goods held for sale. In the list published below there will be found under each name and following the enumeration, the total assessment, the amount of the tax to be paid for county purposes and the amount of tax to be paid for school purposes:

F. Riley, 2 acres of breaking \$12.00, 1 neat cattle \$25.00, 1 dwelling house \$10.00; total value \$47.00, county tax \$0.80, school tax \$0.12. H. Dimler, 1½ acres of breaking \$9.00, 1 neat cattle \$25.00, 1 dwelling house \$10.00; \$44.00, \$0.75, \$0.11. J. Binginghimer, 6 neat cattle \$337.00, 1 dwelling house \$25.00; \$362.00, \$6.15, \$1.91. E. Board, 6 neat cattle \$280.00; \$280.00, \$4.76, \$0.70. P. Snyder, 8 neat cattle \$330.00; \$330.00, \$5.61, \$0.83. A. Myer, 2 neat cattle \$125.00, 1 dwelling house \$25.00; \$150.00, \$2.55, \$0.38. F. Ide, 4 neat cattle \$250.00; \$250.00, \$4.25, \$0.63. H. Bradley, 1 acre breaking \$6.00, 1 dwelling house \$40.00; \$46.00, \$0.78, \$0.12. P. Boyden, 2 acres breaking \$12.00; \$12.00, \$0.20, \$0.03. L. S. Carpenter, 3 acres breaking \$18.00; \$18.00, \$0.31, \$0.05. C. Kelley, 1 dwelling house \$100.00; \$100.00, \$1.70, \$0.25.



S. Kelley or Uncle, 1 dwelling house \$100.00; \$100.00, \$1.70, \$0.25. Charles B. Jordan, 9 acres breaking \$54.00, goods on hand, \$200.00, 1 dwelling house \$10.00; \$264.00, \$4.49, \$0.66. John McDonald, Sr., 54 acres breaking \$324.00, 16 neat cattle \$425.00, 3 horses \$300.00, 8 hogs \$50.00, 1 dwelling house, barn and shop, \$340.00; \$1,439.00, \$24.46, \$3.59. A. L. Cooley, 20 acres breaking \$120.00, 1 neat cattle \$62.50, 2 swine \$12.00, 1 dwelling house \$100.00; \$294.50, \$5.00, \$0.73. D. P. Chase, 10 acres breaking \$60.00, 3 neat cattle \$150.00, 1 swine \$5.00, 1 dwelling house \$40.00; \$255.00, \$4.34, \$0.64. David McPherson, 21 acres breaking \$126.00, 6 neat cattle \$225.00, 5 swine \$40.00, 1 dwelling house \$100.00; \$491.00, \$8.35, \$1.23. Caleb Chase, 14 acres breaking \$84.00, 1 neat cattle \$25.00, 1 hog \$7.00, 1 dwelling house \$150.00; \$266.00, \$4.52, \$0.66. Samuel Carriek, 14 acres breaking \$84.00; \$84.00, \$1.43, \$0.21. John Mallet, 20 acres breaking \$120.00, 1 dwelling house \$10.00; \$130.00, \$2.21, \$0.33. William Carsley, 12 acres breaking \$72.00, 2 cattle \$125.00, 1 dwelling house \$10.00; \$207, \$3.52, \$0.52.

The first marriage officially recorded with the clerk of court of Wright county was that of Herbert W. McCrory, of Monticello, and Harriet McDonald, of Clearwater. The ceremony was performed at Clearwater May 1, 1856, by Samuel Wilder, a justice of the peace, and the witnesses were William McDonald and Frederick M. Cadwell. The record was entered May 2, 1856, by F. W. Merrill, clerk of court.

Chauncey Wilson, of Meeker county, Minnesota territory, and Eunice Caswell, of Wright county, married September 8, 1856, by Rev. Richard Walker, in the presence of William Randall and William M. Preston.

Charles W. Lambert and Matilda Cooley, married at the home of Luman Cooley, in Pleasant Grove precinct, November 26, 1856, by O. H. Kelley, a justice of the peace.

John W. Dow, of St. Cloud, and W. Elmira Oakes, of Big Bend precinct, this county, were married December 14, 1856, in the presence of John and Jane Oakes, by the Rev. E. H. Whitney.

Abraham Descent and Maranda Chandler, both of Monticello, married April 26, 1856, by Rev. Samuel T. Creighton.

William Stinson and Nancy Harper, married at Monticello, August 19, 1856, by Samuel Wilder, justice of the peace.

Lewis McDonald and Caramina E. Spencer, married December 17, 1856, by O. H. Kelley, justice of the peace.

Asahel E. Hulett and Lucy Jane Thrall, both of Silver Creek, married January 1, 1857, by E. H. Whitney.

Joshua Welch and Jemima Record, married at Norwood, March 9, 1857, by O. H. Kelley, a justice of the peace.

Charles W. Clarey and Margaret A. Seely, married at Monticello, April 2, 1857, by Rev. Marcus Hicks, a Presbyterian clergyman.

James M. Gilbert and Virginia M. ———, married at Monticello, April 14, 1857.

Ralph Voorhees and Frances Russell, married October 5, 1857, by the Rev. Marcus Hicks, in the presence of A. C. Russell and J. C. Howe.

Frederick M. Cadwell, of Clearwater, and Elizabeth McCrory, of Monticello. The ceremony was performed at the home of William G. McCrory, in the town of Monticello, by Tobias G. Mealey, a justice of the peace, February 11, 1857.

Frederick Barker and Kate A. Lewis, married in the fall of 1857, by Rev. Marcus Hicks, in the presence of H. C. Coolbaugh and Elizabeth Coolbaugh.

Augustus Merriitt and Mary Hoar, married November 19, 1857, by Rev. Noah Lathrop.

Edwin Jenks and Nancy Beebe, both of Rockford, married November 24, 1857, by Cyrus C. Jenks, a justice of the peace.

Henry F. Walker, of Forest City, and Betsey A. Bryant, of Wright county, married January 1, 1858, by Rev. Noah Lathrop.

Frederick R. Hettie and Wilhalene Ena (Wilhelmina) Shultz, married February 10, 1858, at the home of Gottlieb Ahl, Monticello.

Moses Martin and Olive Cross, married at Monticello, November 9, 1858, by Rev. Samuel T. Sterritt, a Methodist Episcopal clergyman, in the presence of Joseph Eaton and Matilda Cross.

## CHAPTER VII.

### COUNTY REPRESENTATION.

**Minnesota Becomes a Territory—Territorial Legislature—Seventh Council District—Fifth Council District—Constitutional Convention—State Representation—Various Districts that Have Included Wright County—Men Who Have Represented this County at St. Paul—Reapportionments—Congressional Representation.**

After Wisconsin had been admitted as a state of the Union, May 29, 1848, steps were taken to have that part of the former territory which was left outside the state boundaries organized into a new territory to be called Minnesota. This, however, was not the initial movement in that direction. The Wisconsin enabling act was passed by congress August 6, 1846. On December 23 following a bill was introduced in the lower house by Morgan L. Martin, the delegate from that territory, providing for the organization of the territory of Minnesota. This bill was referred to the committee on territories, of which Stephen A. Douglas, of Illinois, was the chairman, who, January 20, 1847, reported in

favor of the passage of the bill, but with the name changed to Itasca. When the matter came up again, February 17, there was much discussion as to the name. Mr. Winthrop, of Massachusetts, proposed Chippewa; J. Thompson, of Mississippi, who didn't care for Indian names, wanted Jackson; while Mr. Houston, of Delaware, spoke strongly in favor of giving recognition to the Father of his Country by calling it Washington. The matter ended with the retention of the name originally proposed, Minnesota, this being the name of the largest tributary of the Mississippi river within the borders of the new territory. It is a composite Sioux Indian word, and while there is some difference of opinion as to the exact meaning, that most generally accepted is "sky-tinted-water," which is a very satisfying and poetical, even if not accurate, interpretation. The real meaning is cloudy water.

At the so-called "Stillwater convention," held at Stillwater August 26, 1848, at which sixty-one delegates were present, memorials were prepared addressed to the President of the United States and to congress praying for the organization of a new territory. It had been assumed that the territorial government of Wisconsin still existed over that part of the original territory excluded from the state boundaries, and for this view there was the authority of a letter from James Buchanan, then secretary of state of the United States. John Catlin, the territorial secretary of Wisconsin, who had removed to Stillwater, issued a proclamation in his official capacity as acting governor of Wisconsin (Governor Henry Dodge having been elected United States Senator) calling an election to be held October 30, to select a delegate to congress. John H. Tweedy, the territorial delegate from Wisconsin, who was in sympathy with the movement, resigned and Henry H. Sibley was elected his successor. Mr. Sibley proceeded to Washington and presented his credentials, but it was not until the fifteenth of the following January that he was admitted to a seat, there having been much discussion as to whether excluded territory was entitled to continued political existence and representation.

Mr. Sibley devoted himself assiduously to securing the passage in the United States senate of the bill for the creation of the territory of Minnesota which had been introduced at the previous session and met with gratifying success. His efforts in the house of representatives were less satisfactory, political questions entering largely into the matter, and it was not until March 3, 1849, the very last day of the session—and then only with the aid of Senator Stephen A. Douglas, who having been in the meantime elected to the United States senate from Illinois, was chairman of the committee on territories in that body as he had previously been in the house—that he succeeded in securing the passage of the bill. This was finally done under suspension of the rules,

the previous opposition having been unexpectedly withdrawn. This being before the days of railroads and telegraphs in the West, the good news did not reach St. Paul until thirty-seven days afterwards, when it was brought by the first steamer coming from the lower river.

At the time of the organization of Minnesota as a territory the country was described as being "little more than a wilderness." That which lay west of the Mississippi river, from the Iowa line to Lake Itasca, had not yet been ceded by the Indians and was unoccupied by the whites save in a very few instances. On the east side, in this more immediate vicinity, were trading posts with the cabins of a few employes at Sauk Rapids and Crow Wing. Away up at Pembina was the largest town or settlement within the boundaries of the new territory, where were nearly a thousand people, a large majority of whom were "Metis" or mixed bloods, French Crees or French Chippewas.

In "Minnesota in Three Centuries" attention is called to the fact that at this time the east side of the Mississippi, as far north as Crow Wing, was fast filling up with settlers who had come to the country when it had been announced that the territory was organized. The settlers were almost entirely from the Northern States, many being from New England. The fact that the state which would succeed the territory would be a free state, without slavery in any form, made it certain that the first settlers would be non-slaveholders, with but few people from the Southern States interested or in sympathy with the "peculiar institution."

Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania, then only thirty-four years of age, was appointed by President Taylor the first governor of the new territory of Minnesota. His previous public experience had been as a member of the Twenty-eighth and Twenty-ninth congresses, in which he had displayed the sterling qualities and the marked ability which characterized his long after-career. From the time of his coming to Minnesota until the close of his life he remained one of its most loyal and honored citizens, filling many important positions both in the state and the nation. He arrived in St. Paul, May 27, 1849, and the hotels being full to overflowing proceeded with his family to Mendota, a fur trading station at the junction of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers, where he became the guest of Henry H. Sibley, remaining there until June 26.

On the first of June he issued a proclamation, said to have been prepared in a small room in Bass's log tavern which stood on the site now occupied by the Merchant's Hotel, making official announcement of the organization of the territory, with the following officers: Governor, Alexander Ramsey, of Pennsylvania; secretary, C. K. Smith, of Ohio; chief justice, Aaron Goodrich, of Tennessee; associate justices, David Cooper, of Pennsylvania,



and Bradley B. Meeker, of Kentucky; United States marshal, Joshua L. Taylor; United States attorney, H. L. Moss. Mr. Taylor, having declined to accept the office of marshal, A. M. Mitchell, of Ohio, a graduate of West Point and colonel of an Ohio regiment in the Mexican war, was appointed to the position and arrived in St. Paul in August.

A second proclamation issued by Governor Ramsey June 11 divided the territory into three judicial districts, to which the three judges who had been appointed by the president were assigned. The present Wright county was included in the Second district, which comprised the county of La Pointe (a former Wisconsin county) and the region north and west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota on a line running due west from the headwaters of the Minnesota to the Missouri river, and over this district Judge Meeker presided.

The census of the territory taken in 1849 by an order of Governor Ramsey issued June 11, although including the soldiers at the fort and pretty much every living soul in the territory except Indians, footed up the disappointing total of 4,764—of which number 3,058 were males and 1,706 were females. Additional and revised returns made the population exactly 5,000—males, 3,253; females, 1,747.

Another proclamation issued July 7, 1849, divided the territory into seven council districts and ordered an election to be held August 1 to choose one delegate to the house of representatives at Washington, and nine councillors and eighteen representatives to constitute the legislative assembly of Minnesota. The election passed off very quietly, politics entering scarcely at all into the contests, which were wholly personal. In all 682 votes were cast for the delegate to congress, Henry H. Sibley, who was elected without opposition.

The council districts were described in Ramsey's proclamation as follows: "No. 1. The St. Croix precinct of St. Croix county, and the settlements on the west bank of the Mississippi south of Crow village to the Iowa line. 2. The Stillwater precinct of the county of St. Croix. 3. The St. Paul precinct (except Little Canada settlement). 4. Marine Mills, Falls of St. Croix, Rush Lake, Rice River and Snake River precincts, of St. Croix county and La Pointe county. 5. The Falls of St. Anthony precinct and the Little Canada settlement. 6. The Sauk Rapids and Crow Wing precincts, of St. Croix county, and all settlements west of the Mississippi and north of the Osakis river, and a line thence west to the British line. 7. The country and settlements west of the Mississippi, not included in districts 1 and 6. The territory now embraced in Wright county was included in the seventh district. The district included, generally speaking, all of the territory south of the Sauk river and west of the Mississippi river, but

none of the settlements on the west bank of the Mississippi except such as might be found north of the settlements near St. Anthony Falls and south of the mouth of Sauk river.

1849.—The first territorial legislature—called the territorial assembly—met Monday, September 3, in the Central House, St. Paul, a large log building weatherboarded, which served both as a state house and a hotel. It stood on practically the present site of the Mannheimer block. On the first floor of the main building was the secretary's office and the dining room was occupied as the Representatives' chamber. As the hour for dinner or supper approached the House had to adjourn to give the servants an opportunity to make the necessary preparations for serving the meal. In the ladies' parlor on the second floor the Council convened for their deliberations. The legislature halls were not to exceed eighteen feet square. Governor Ramsey, during his entire term of office, had his executive office in his private residence, and the supreme court shifted from place to place as rooms could be rented for its use. Although congress had appropriated \$20,000 for the erection of a capitol, the money could not be used as "a permanent seat of government" for the territory had not yet been selected, so the machinery of government had to be carted around in the most undignified manner. The seventh district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Lac qui Parle; and in the house by Alexis Bailly, of Mendota, and Gideon H. Pond, of Oak Grove.

1851.—The second territorial legislature met January 1 and adjourned March 31. Martin McLeod again represented the seventh district in the council; while in the house were Alexander Faribault, of Mendota, and B. H. Randall, of Fort Snelling.

The territory, having been divided into counties, it was apportioned by the second territorial legislature (1851) into seven districts. The north fork of the Crow river divided the present Wright county. The area south of that fork, as a part of Dakota county, was in the sixth district, while the area north as a part of Cass county was included in the fifth district which consisted of Benton and Cass counties.

1852.—The third territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The fifth district was represented in the council by S. B. Lowry, of Watab; in the house by James Beatty, of Itasea, and David Day, of Long Prairie. The sixth district was represented in the council by Martin McLeod, of Oak Grove; and in the house by James McBoal, of Mendota, and B. H. Randall, of Ft. Snelling.

1853.—The fourth territorial legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The fifth district was represented in the council as in 1852 by S. B. Lowry. David Day was in the house again. The new member from the district was J. McKee. The

sixth district was again represented in the council by Martin McCloud. B. H. Randall was again in the house and the new member from the sixth district was A. E. Ames. This legislature changed the boundary lines of certain counties and created certain new counties. The part of what is now Wright county lying north of the north fork of the Crow river still remained in Cass county. The part lying south of it was included in Sibley county. Possibly a small portion in the southwestern part of the present county was included in Nocollet county. In spite of these changes in county lines, the boundaries of the legislative districts remained the same.

Franklin Pierce having been elected president of the United States in the previous November, promptly proceeded after his inauguration, in accordance with the good old Jacksonian doctrine, to remove the Whig officeholders and distribute the spoils among the victors. The new territorial appointees were: Governor, Willis A. Gorman, of Indiana; Secretary, J. T. Rosser, of Virginia; Chief Justice, W. H. Welch, of Minnesota; Associates, Moses Sherburne, of Maine; and A. G. Chatfield, of Wisconsin. Soon after entering on the duties of his office, Governor Gorman concluded a treaty at Watab with the Winnebago Indians for an exchange of territory. At the election in October Henry M. Rice was elected delegate to Congress.

1854.—In 1854 the legislature of Minnesota for the first time assembled in a regular capitol building, its previous sessions having been held haphazard wherever accommodations could be had. This building, begun in 1851, but not completed until the summer of 1853, at a cost of something over \$40,000, was totally destroyed by fire on the evening of March 1, 1881, while both branches of the legislature were in session. Some of the more valuable papers in the various offices were saved, but the law library and many thousands of documents and reports were burned. The total loss was about \$200,000. The present "Old Capitol" was erected on the site of the first building. The fifth session assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The fifth district was represented in the council by S. B. Olmsted, of Belle Prairie; and in the house by R. M. Richardson and Peter Roy. The sixth district was represented in the council by Joseph R. Brown; and in the house by Heseekiah Fletcher and William H. Nobles.

1855.—The sixth territorial legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. S. B. Olmsted again represented the fifth district in the council, while James Beatty and Fred Andros represented that district in the house. Joseph R. Brown again represented the sixth district in the council, and Henry H. Sibley and D. M. Hanson represented the district in the house. It was this legislature that created Wright county.

By the apportionment of 1855, Wright county was included in the fifth district. The other counties in the district were Benton, Cass, Todd and Stearns.

1856.—The seventh territorial legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 1. The fifth district was represented in the council by Lewis Stone, of Royalton, Benton county. In the house from this district the representatives were: John L. Wilson, of St. Cloud, Stearns county; and William Sturgis, of Little Falls, Benton county.

1857.—The eighth and last territorial legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The extra session lasted from April 27 to May 20. The fifth district was represented in the council by Lewis Stone, as on the previous year. Samuel B. Abbe, W. W. Kingsbury and John L. Wilson represented the district in the house. At this session was the memorable struggle over the removal of the capitol from St. Paul to St. Peter, when "Jo" Rolette, the member who had charge of the removal bill, mysteriously disappeared with that document in his possession and remained in seclusion until the hour for adjournment arrived, to the great joy and relief of St. Paul, which thereby retained the capitol.

### CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION.

March 3, 1857, congress passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a state constitution. Each council district was to be represented in this convention by two representatives for each councilman and representative to which it was entitled. The ninth district, which consisted of Winona, Olmsted, and Wabasha counties, was entitled to eight delegates, but for some reason ten members from this district were seated. The constitutional convention, consisting of 108 members, was authorized to meet at the capital on the second Monday in July, to frame a state constitution and submit it to the people of the territory. The election was held on the first Monday in June, 1857. July 13 the delegates met, but, a disagreement arising in the organization, the Republican members organized one body and the Democrats another, fifty-nine delegates being given seats in the former and fifty-three in the latter, making 112 in all. Each of these bodies, claiming to be the legally constituted convention, proceeded with the work of formulating an instrument to be submitted to the people. After some days an understanding was effected between them, and by means of a committee of conference, the same constitution was framed and adopted by both bodies. On being submitted to the people, October 13, 1857, it was ratified.

The fifth district was represented on the Democratic wing by David Gilman, of Watab; Henry C. Waite, of St. Cloud;



William Sturgis, of Little Falls; William W. Kingsbury; R. H. Barrett, J. C. Shepley and J. W. Ten Voorde. Frederick Ayer, a pioneer missionary, sat on the Republican wing as a representative from this district.

The history of this convention is so graphically given by W. H. C. Folsom, who was one of its members, in his interesting volume, "Fifty Years in the Northwest," that we quote it almost entire:

"The state was nearly equally divided between the Republicans and Democrats, still the question of politics did not enter largely into the contest except as a question of party supremacy. The people were a unit on the question of organizing a state government under the enabling act and in many cases there was but a single ticket in the field. It was a matter, therefore, of some surprise that there should be a separation among the delegates into opposing factions, resulting practically in the formation of two conventions, each claiming to represent the people and each proposing a constitution. The delegates, although but 108 were called, were numbered on the rolls of the two wings as 59 Republican and 53 Democratic, a discrepancy arising from some irregularity of enrollment, by which certain memberships were counted twice. The Republican members, claiming a bare majority, took possession of the hall at midnight, twelve hours before the legal time for opening the convention, the object being to obtain control of the offices and committees of the convention, a manifest advantage in the matter of deciding upon contested seats.

"In obedience to the call of the leaders of the party, issued the day before, the writer, with other Republicans, repaired to the house at the appointed hour, produced his credentials as a delegate, and was conducted into the illuminated hall by Hon. John W. North. The delegates were dispersed variously about the hall, some chatting together, others reading newspapers, smoking or snoring, and here and there one had fallen asleep in his seat. Occasionally a delegate nervously examined his revolver as if he anticipated some necessity for its use.

"The Democratic delegates were elsewhere, probably plotting in secret conclave to capture the hall, and perhaps it might be well enough to be prepared for the worst. Thus the remainder of the night passed and the forenoon of July 13. As soon as the clock struck twelve the Democratic delegates rushed tumultuously in, as if with the purpose of capturing the speaker's stand. That, however, was already occupied by the Republican delegates and the storming party was obliged to content itself with the lower steps of the stand. Both parties at the moment the clock ceased striking were yelling "order" vociferously, and nominating their officers pro tem. Both parties effected a tem-

porary organization, although in the uproar and confusion it was difficult to know what was done.

“The Democratic wing adjourned at once to the senate chamber and there effected a permanent organization. The Republicans, being left in undisturbed possession of the hall, perfected their organization, and the two factions set themselves diligently to work to frame a constitution, each claiming to be the legally constituted convention, and expecting recognition as such by the people of the state and congress. The debates in each were acrimonious. A few of the more moderate delegates in each recognized the absurdity and illegality of their position and questioned the propriety of remaining and participating in proceedings which they could not sanction.

“The conventions continued their sessions inharmoniously enough. Each framed a constitution, at the completion of which a joint committee was appointed to revise and harmonize the two constitutions, but the members of the committees were as belligerent as the conventions they represented. Members grew angry, abusing each other with words and even blows, blood being drawn in an argument with bludgeons between two of the delegates. An agreement seemed impossible, when some one whose name has not found its way into history made the happy suggestion that alternate articles of each constitution be adopted. When this was done, and the joint production of the two conventions was in presentable shape, another and almost fatal difficulty arose, as to which wing should be accorded the honor of signing officially this remarkable document. One body or the other must acknowledge the paternity of the hybrid. Ingenuity amounting to genius (it is a pity that the possessor should be unknown) found a new expedient, namely, to write out two constitutions in full, exact duplicates except as to signatures, the one to be signed by Democratic officers and members and the other by Republicans. These two constitutions were filed in the archives of the state and one of them, which one will probably never be known, was adopted by the people October 13, 1857.”

Mr. Folsom is slightly in error. The enabling act did not specify any hour for the meeting of the convention, nor did it designate any definite place in the capitol where the sessions should be held, both of which omissions contributed to the confusion in organization. W. W. Folwell, in his “History of Minnesota,” narrates the preliminaries as follows: “To make sure of being on hand, the Republican delegates repaired to the capitol late on the Sunday night preceding the first Monday in June and remained there, as one of them phrased it, ‘to watch and pray for the Democratic brethren.’ These did not appear till a few moments before twelve o’clock of the appointed day. Immediately upon their entrance in a body into the representatives’

hall Charles R. Chase, secretary of the territory and a delegate, proceeded to the speaker's desk and called to order. A motion to adjourn was made by Colonel Gorman, and the question was taken by Chase, who declared it carried. The Democrats left the hall to the Republicans, who proceeded to organize the convention. Fifty-six delegates presented credentials in proper form and took their oaths to support the constitution of the United States. At noon of Tuesday the Democratic delegates assembled about the door of the hall, and finding it occupied by citizens who refused to give them place, met in the adjacent council chamber and proceeded to organize the convention. Henry H. Sibley was made chairman, on motion of Joseph R. Brown, and later became president of the body."

After the adjournment of the constitutional convention the Republicans and Democrats held their party conventions, each nominating a full state ticket and three candidates for Congress. The Republican candidate for governor was Alexander Ramsey and the Democratic candidate Henry H. Sibley. The election was held October 13, 1857, the constitution being adopted by an overwhelming vote; H. H. Sibley was elected governor by a majority of only 240 in a total of 35,240 votes, and the Democrats had a small majority in the legislature.

### STATE REPRESENTATION.

The first Minnesota state legislature assembled December 2, 1857. There was a serious question, however, as to whether it was really a state legislature, as Minnesota had not yet been admitted to the Union. There was a question as to the recognition of Samuel Medary, the territorial governor, as governor of the state, but by a vote of 59 to 49 he was so recognized by the legislature, and he, in turn, in his message recognized the law-making body as a state legislature. None of the state officers could take the oath of office, and the Republican members of the legislature entered a formal protest against any business whatever being done until after the admission of the state as a member of the Union. But the Democrats having a majority, decided to hold a joint convention December 19 for the election of two United States senators. Henry M. Rice was elected for the long term on the first ballot, but it was not until after several ballottings that General James Shields won the short term. He was a new comer from Illinois and his election was a bitter pill for many of the old Democratic war-horses, such as Sibley, Steele, Brown and Gorman.

As a means of relieving the state from the awkward predicament in which it was placed the legislature adopted March 1 an amendment to the constitution authorizing the newly-elected officers to qualify May 1, whether the state was admitted by that

date or not, this amendment to be submitted to the voters at an election called for April 15. A second amendment, submitted at the same time, provided for the famous \$5,000,000 railroad bond loan, which was the cause of great loss and great bitterness to the people. Both amendments were overwhelmingly adopted, but in November, 1860, the bond amendment was expunged from the constitution, after \$2,275,000 bonds had been issued. The legislature, March 25, took a recess until June 2.

In the meantime the steps looking toward the recognition of Minnesota's statehood by Congress had lagged sadly. For some unknown reason President Buchanan had delayed until the middle of January, 1858, transmitting to the United States Senate the constitution adopted by the people. A bill for the admission of Minnesota as a state was introduced by Stephen A. Douglas, chairman of the committee on territories. When this bill came up February 1 there was a prolonged discussion, a number of the senators being in opposition because it would add another to the number of free states, thus disturbing the "balance of power" between the free and slave states. Among those participating in the debate were Senators Douglas, Wilson, Gwin, Hale, Mason, Green, Brown and Crittenden, the latter being much more moderate in his expressions than most of his fellow senators from the South. The debate continued until April 8, when the English bill, which provided for the admission of Kansas as a supposed slave state having passed, the opposition ceased, and Minnesota's bill was adopted by a vote of 49 to 3. The bill then went to the House, where it met the same kind of objections as had been raised in the Senate, the English bill standing in the way until May 4, when it was passed. One week later, May 11, the bill admitting Minnesota passed the House by a vote of 157 to 38, the following day receiving the approval of the President, and May 12, 1858, Minnesota obtained full recognition as a state in the Union. Informal news of the action of Congress reached St. Paul, by telegraphic information brought from La Crosse, Wisconsin, May 13, but the official notice was not received until some days later, and May 24 the state officers elected in October, 1857, took their oaths of office.

By the apportionment of 1857 set forth in the state constitution adopted October 13, 1857, Wright and Carver counties were constituted the nineteenth district, with one senator and three representatives.

1857-58.—The first state legislature, as already noted, assembled December 2, 1857. On March 25, 1858, it took a recess until June 2, and finally adjourned August 12. The state was admitted May 11, 1858. It will, therefore, be seen that, although this legislature is called the first state legislature, nevertheless it assembled in territorial times. The nineteenth district was rep-



resented in the senate by Samuel E. Adams. Ernst Heyd and Ebenezer Bray (of Carver county) sat in the house. The district was entitled to three representatives, but apparently only two took their seats. Mr. Bray, one of the representatives from this district, revealed himself as one of the two members who had sensitive consciences. During the adjournment from March 25 to June 2 there were sixty-eight days. The members did not dare to vote themselves pay for this period of idleness, so it was voted that each member could draw \$75 from the state treasury "for stationery." Ebenezer Bray, from this district, and Robert C. Masters, from Dakota county, refused to be a party to this raid on the treasury and never drew the \$75. All the rest received the money.

1858-59.—No session was held in the winter of 1858-59, mainly owing to the protracted session of 1857-58, which was believed to render unnecessary another one following so soon, the legislature of that year having so provided by enactment.

1859-60.—The second state legislature assembled December 7, 1859, and adjourned March 12, 1860. The nineteenth district was represented in the senate by Samuel E. Adams, and in the house by John S. Letford, F. A. Renz and Jackson Taylor.

By the apportionment of 1860, Wright county was placed in the sixth district, which was to have one senator and three representatives. The other counties in the district were Carver, Meeker, McCloud, Kandiyohi and Monongalia.

1861.—The third state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Samuel Bennett and in the house by I. P. Kennedy, T. D. Smith and William R. Baxter.

1862.—The fourth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 4. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Charles A. Warner and in the house by W. G. Butler, C. F. Davis and B. G. Lee.

On account of the Indian outbreak in 1862, an extra session was called by the governor. It assembled September 9 and adjourned September 29.

1863.—The fifth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Charles A. Warner and in the house by W. G. Butler, C. F. Davis and B. G. Lee.

1864.—The sixth state legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned March 5. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Charles A. Warner and in the house by W. G. Butler, John S. Letford and Henry Hill.

1865.—The seventh state legislature assembled January 3 and adjourned March 3. The sixth district was represented in the

senate by G. D. George and in the house by Frank A. Renz, Henry Hill and C. F. Davis.

1866.—The eighth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The sixth district was represented in the senate by G. D. George and in the house by Dana E. King, L. Harrington and Chauncey W. Griggs.

By the apportionment of 1886, Carver county was taken from the sixth district. Wright, Meeker, McCloud, Kandiyohi and Monongalia were left in the district. It was to be represented by one senator and two representatives.

1867.—The ninth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The sixth district was represented in the senate by H. L. Gordon and in the house by Dana E. King and P. W. Savage.

1868.—The tenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 6. The sixth district was represented in the senate by H. L. Gordon and in the house by Lewis Harrington and J. B. Salisbury.

1869.—The eleventh state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Dana E. King and in the house by W. W. Patterson and D. Pile.

1870.—The twelfth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The sixth district was represented in the senate by Dana E. King and in the house by B. Abbott and A. H. Reed.

1871.—The thirteenth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 3. The sixth district was represented in the senate by W. T. Bonniwell and in the house by W. H. Greenleaf and Andrew Railson.

By the apportionment of 1871 Wright county for the first time constituted a separate district. It was designated the thirty-second and was to have one senator and two representatives.

1872.—The fourteenth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by G. A. Ruckholdt and in the house by F. X. Lafond and C. B. Jackson.

1873.—The fifteenth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by G. A. Ruckholdt and in the house by J. E. Jenks and T. G. Mealey.

1874.—The sixteenth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by T. G. Mealey and in the house by Nathan Warner and Valentine Eppel.

1875.—The seventeenth state legislature assembled January 5 and adjourned March 5. The thirty-second district was repre-

sented in the senate by T. G. Mealey and in the house by Nathan Warner and Valentine Eppel.

1876.—The eighteenth state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 3. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by J. N. Stacy and in the house by Nathan Warner and John Oakes.

1877.—The nineteenth state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by J. N. Stacy and in the house by A. Peterson and Elijah J. Cutts.

1878.—The twentieth state legislature assembled January 8 and adjourned March 8. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by T. G. Mealey and in the house by Nathan Warner and L. H. Rawson.

1879.—The twenty-first state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned March 7. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by T. G. Mealey and in the house by J. N. Stacy and Henry Moores.

1881.—The twenty-second state legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned March 4. The thirty-second district was represented in the senate by T. G. Mealey and in the house by E. J. Cutts and T. C. Porter.

An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the legislation at the regular session relating to the state railroad bonds, which were declared unconstitutional by the supreme court. The session commenced October 11 and closed November 13.

By the apportionment of 1881, Wright and Sherburne counties were united as the thirty-third district. The district was to have one senator and three representatives. Beginning with 1881, the sessions of the legislature have been biennial. However, annual elections continued to be held until 1886.

1883.—The twenty-third state legislature assembled January 2 and adjourned March 2. The thirty-third district was represented in the senate by W. H. Houlton and in the house by J. Smith, T. C. Porter and H. Holmstrom.

1885.—The twenty-fourth state legislature assembled January 6 and adjourned March 6. The thirty-third district was represented in the senate by W. H. Houlton and in the house by T. C. Porter, H. Holmstrom and J. Smith.

1887.—The twenty-fifth state legislature assembled January 4, and adjourned March 4. The thirty-third district was represented in the senate by A. Y. Eaton, and in the house by H. Kreis, F. E. Latham and E. F. Hurd.

1889.—The twenty-sixth state legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned April 23. The thirty-third district was repre-

sented in the senate by A. Y. Eaton and in the house by Henry Kreis, John N. Haven and H. Holmstrom.

By the apportionment of 1889, Wright and a part of Sherburne county were constituted the thirty-eighth district with one senator and four representatives.

1891.—The twenty-seventh state legislature assembled January 6, and adjourned April 20. The thirty-eighth district was represented in the senate by A. Y. Eaton and in the house by John A. Holler, J. L. Harwick, Henry Berning and H. C. Bull.

1893.—The twenty-eighth state legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned April 18. The thirty-eighth district was represented in the senate by A. Y. Eaton and in the house by H. E. Craig, S. J. Swanson, Wm. D. McDonald and John A. Holler.

1895.—The twenty-ninth state legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned April 23. The thirty-eighth district was represented in the senate by W. E. Culkin and in the house by H. E. Craig, A. N. Dare, S. J. Swanson and C. C. Rice.

1897.—The thirtieth state legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned April 21. The thirty-eighth district was represented in the senate by Wm. E. Culkin and in the house by A. N. Dare, J. M. Belden, G. P. Boutwell and Ole Mattson.

By the apportionment of 1897, Wright county again became a separate district. It was designated the forty-sixth, with one senator and two representatives.

1899.—The thirty-first state legislature assembled January 3, and adjourned April 18. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by E. Y. Chilton and in the house by Frank Swanson and G. P. Boutwell.

1901.—The thirty-second state legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned April 12. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by E. Y. Chilton and in the house by John T. Alley and Frank Swanson.

An extra session was called for the purpose of considering the report of the tax commission created by the act of 1901. The extra session convened February 4, 1902, and adjourned March 11, 1902.

1903.—The thirty-third state legislature assembled January 6, and adjourned April 12. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by George C. Carpenter and in the house by E. M. Nagel and C. J. Carlson.

1905.—The thirty-fourth state legislature assembled January 7, and adjourned April 18. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by J. T. Alley, and in the house by A. Hanaford and A. J. Wood.

1907.—The thirty-fifth state legislature assembled January 8, and adjourned April 24. The forty-sixth district was represented



in the senate by Geo. C. Carpenter and in the house by E. M. Nagel and A. J. Wood.

1909.—The thirty-sixth state legislature assembled January 5, and adjourned April 22. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by Geo. C. Carpenter and in the house by E. M. Nagel and C. J. Carlson.

1911.—The thirty-seventh state legislature assembled January 6, and adjourned April 19. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by Geo. C. Carpenter and in the house by J. F. Lee and August Hafften.

1913.—The thirty-eighth state legislature assembled January 7 and adjourned April 24. The forty-sixth district was represented in the senate by Geo. C. Carpenter and in the house by August Hafften and J. F. Lee.

At several successive sessions of the legislature prior to that of 1913 attempts had been made to secure a new apportionment. The last had been in 1897 and a great change in the population had taken place in the meantime—the northern part of the state having increased while in the southern part the gain had been slight, in some counties an actual loss having taken place. At the 1913 session, after a protracted struggle, a compromise bill was agreed upon, by which the number of senators was increased to 67 and the number of representatives to 130, although the legislature was already one of the largest in the United States and altogether out of proportion to the population. By this apportionment, Wright county became the twenty-seventh district with one senator and two representatives.

1915.—The thirty-ninth legislature assembled January 4 and adjourned April 22. The twenty-seventh district was represented in the senate by J. T. Alley, and in the house by August Hafften and J. E. Madigan.

### CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION.

Wright county has been represented in congress since Minnesota became a state as follows: W. W. Phelps, Democrat (Goodhue county), May 12, 1858 to March 4, 1859; Cyrus Aldrich, Republican (Hennepin county), March 4, 1859 to March 4, 1863; Ignatius Donnelly, Republican (Dakota county), March 4, 1863 to March 4, 1869; Eugene M. Wilson, Democrat (Hennepin county), March 4, 1869 to March 4, 1871; John T. Averill, Republican (Ramsey county), March 4, 1871 to March 4, 1875; William S. King, Republican (Hennepin county), March 4, 1875 to March 4, 1877; Jacob H. Stewart, Republican (Ramsey county), March 4, 1877 to March 4, 1879; William D. Washburn, Republican (Hennepin county), March 4, 1879 to March 4, 1883; William D. Washburn, Republican (Hennepin county), March 4, 1883 to March 4, 1885; J. B. Gilfillan, Republican, March 4, 1885 to March

4, 1887; Edmund Rice, Democrat, March 4, 1887 to March 4, 1889; S. P. Snider, Republican, March 4, 1889 to March 4, 1891; J. N. Castle, Democrat, March 4, 1891 to March 4, 1893; M. R. Baldwin, Democrat (St. Louis county), March 4, 1893 to March 4, 1895; Charles A. Towne, Republican (St. Louis county), March 4, 1895 to March 4, 1897; Page Morris, Republican (St. Louis county), March 4, 1897 to March 4, 1903; C. B. Buckman, Republican (Morrison county), March 4, 1903 to March 4, 1907; Charles A. Lindburgh, Republican (Morrison county), March 4, 1907 to March 4, 1911.

Until Minnesota became a state it had only one representative in congress, a territorial delegate, who was not allowed to vote. The first territorial delegate from Minnesota was Henry H. Sibley, who was first sent ostensibly as a delegate from the territory of Wisconsin, though living on the present site of Mendota, at the mouth of the Minnesota river. He sat as a territorial delegate from January 15, 1849, to March 4, 1853. He was succeeded by Henry M. Rice, who served from December 5, 1853, to March 4, 1857. W. W. Kingsbury was elected to succeed him and served from December 7, 1857, to March 3, 1859. As has been noted, the United States senate, February 23, 1857, passed an act authorizing the people of Minnesota to form a constitution preparatory to their admission to the Union. In accordance with the provisions of this enabling act, a constitutional convention was held July 13, 1857, at the territorial capital. October 13, 1857, an election was held, when the constitution was adopted and a full list of state officers elected. Three congressmen were also elected at this time, George L. Becker, W. W. Phelps and J. M. Cavanaugh. But it was afterwards found that Minnesota was entitled to only two congressmen and the matter was amicably adjusted by the withdrawal of Mr. Becker. By this election the Messrs. Phelps and Cavanaugh became the first members of congress from the state of Minnesota.

For a time the two congressmen were elected "at large," though in order to comply with constitutional requirements there was a nominal division of the state into two districts, one being said to represent the northern district and the other the southern district.

By the apportionment of 1872, the state was divided into three congressional districts. Wright county was included in the third district, with Ramsey, Hennepin and various counties to the north.

The apportionment of 1881 divided the state into five districts. Wright county was in the fourth district with Washington, Ramsey, Hennepin, Pine Kanabee, Anoka, Chisago, Isanti and Shurburne counties.

The next apportionment, that of 1891, increased the number of congressional districts to seven. Wright county was placed in the sixth district with Aitkin, Anoka, Beltrami, Benton, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Hubbard, Itasca, Lake, Mille Laes, Morrison, Pine, St. Louis, Sherburne, Stearns, Todd and Wadena counties.

In 1901 the state was divided into nine congressional districts. Wright county still remained in the sixth district. The other counties in the district were: Benton, Cass, Crow Wing, Douglas, Hubbard, Meeker, Morrison, Sherburne, Todd, Wadena and Stearns.

The federal census of 1910 gave Minnesota an additional member of Congress, who was elected at large at the election held Nov. 4, 1912.

In 1913 the state was divided into ten districts. Wright county was placed in the tenth district. The rest of the territory in the district consisted of the counties of Pine, Chisago, Kanabec, Mille Laes, Isanti and Anoka, and all of the county of Hennepin (except the town of St. Anthony), outside of the city of Minneapolis, and the third, fourth and tenth wards of the city of Minneapolis.

## CHAPTER VIII.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

**Original Counties — Dakotah County — Cass County — Sibley County — Nocollet County — Wright County Created — Naming the County — First Officers — Early Precincts — Early County Commissioners — Supervisors — Commission System Again — Doings of the Successive Boards — County Officers — County Property — Courthouse — County Farm.**

Alexander Ramsey, the first territorial governor of Minnesota, arrived at St. Paul with his family May 27, 1849. June 1, 1849, he issued a proclamation declaring the territory duly organized. June 11 a second proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into three temporary judicial districts. The first comprised the county of St. Croix. The county of La Pointe and the region north and west of the Mississippi and north of the Minnesota and of a line running due west from the headwaters of the Minnesota to the Missouri river, constituted the second. The country west of the Mississippi and south of the Minnesota, formed the third district. Judge Goodrich was assigned to the first, Judge Meeker to the second, and Judge Cooper to the third. A court was ordered to be held at Stillwater on the second Monday, at the Falls of St. Anthony on the third, and at Mendota

on the fourth Monday of August. Wright county was included in the second district, with Judge Meeker on the bench.

Until June 26 Governor Ramsey and family had been guests of Hon. H. H. Sibley, at Mendota. On the afternoon of that day they arrived at St. Paul in a birch-bark canoe and became permanent residents at the capital. On July 1 a land office was established at Stillwater, and A. Van Vorhees, after a few weeks, became the registrar.

On July 7 a proclamation was issued, dividing the territory into seven council districts, and ordering an election to be held on the first day of August, for one delegate to represent the people in the House of Representatives of the United States, for nine councillors and eighteen representatives, to constitute the Legislative Assembly of Minnesota. Wright county was included in the seventh district.

**Original Counties.** The first territorial legislature assembled September 3, 1849, and adjourned November 1. By an act approved October 27, 1849, the territory was divided into nine counties: Washington, Ramsey, Benton, Itasca, Wabashaw, Dakotah, Wahnahta, Mahkahto and Pembina. Only the counties of Washington, Ramsey and Benton were fully organized for all county purposes. The others were organized only for the purpose of the appointment of justices of the peace, constables and such other judicial and ministerial offices as might be specially provided for. They were entitled to any number of justices of the peace and constables, not exceeding six, to be appointed by the governor, their term of office was to be two years unless sooner removed by the governor, and they were made conservators of the peace. The county of Dakotah, among others, was attached to Ramsey county for judicial purposes. The county of Ramsey was constituted the first judicial district and Aaron Goodrich was assigned as judge thereof. St. Paul was made the seat of justice of Ramsey county and the terms of the district court were appointed to be held there every year on the second Monday of April and the second Monday of September.

**Dakotah County.** Dakotah county, as "erected" by the act of October 27, 1849, included what is now Wright county. Its eastern boundary was the Mississippi, its northern boundary was a line drawn due west from the mouth of the Clearwater river, its southern boundary was a line drawn due west from a point on the Mississippi opposite the mouth of the St. Croix, while the western boundary was the Missouri river.

The legislature of 1851, by Chapter I of the Revised Statutes, passed January 1, divided the territory into Benton, Dakotah, Itasca, Cass, Pembina, Ramsey, Washington, Chisago and Wabashaw counties and defines their borders.

Dakota (the final "h" having been dropped) county was



made to consist of all that part of the territory west of the Mississippi river and lying west of the county of Wabashaw and south of a line beginning at the mouth of the Crow river and up that river and the north branch thereof to its source, and thence due west to the Missouri river. By this revision the part of what is now Wright county that lies south of the Crow river still remained in Dakota county.

Dakota county was attached, as before, to Ramsey county for judicial purposes.

**Cass County.** By the Revision of 1851 which left in Dakota county that part of the present Wright county that lies south of the north fork of the Crow river; that part of the present county which lies north of that stream was included in Cass county. The boundaries of Cass county are described in the act as follows: "Beginning at the mouth of the Crow river; thence up the Mississippi river to Itasca lake; thence on a direct line to Otter Tail lake; thence in a direct line to the source of the Long Prairie river; thence south to the northern boundary line of Dakota (at the source of the north fork of the Crow river); thence along said line to the place of beginning. The northern boundary of Dakota county thus described was the north fork of the Crow river to its junction with the south fork, and thence to the Mississippi river. Cass county was attached to Benton county for judicial purposes. Court was to be held at or near Sauk Rapids. The northern part of what is now Wright county remained in Cass county until February 20, 1855, when Wright county was organized.

**Sibley County.** By act of March 5, 1853, various counties were created. Among them was Sibley county. The county was bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of Hennepin (where the forks of the Crow river join near Rockford), thence up the north fork of the Crow river to its second fork, thence in a direct line to the mouth of the Rush river (near the present site of Henderson, in the present Sibley county), thence down the Mississippi river to Hennepin county, and thence along the line of said county to the place of beginning. This includes that part of Wright county lying south of the north fork of the Crow river. To the east of Sibley lay Nicollet county, created by the same act. It is possible that the southwestern part of what is now Wright county was included in Nicollet county. The exact location of the "second fork" described in the act is rather uncertain, and at this late date it is difficult to determine just where the lawmakers intended that the dividing line between Sibley and Nicollet counties should be located. Nicollet county was fully organized. Sibley county was attached to Hennepin county for judicial purposes and was not organized until March 2, 1854.

**Wright County Created.** By an act approved February 20, 1855, the territorial legislature created a number of counties. Among them was Wright county. The boundaries were described as follows: "Beginning at the northeast corner of Davis county, running thence south on the east line of said county to the north line of Carver county; thence east on the north line of said county to the township line between ranges 24 and 25, west of the fifth meridian; thence north on said line to the Crow river; thence down the center of Crow river to the Mississippi river; thence up the main channel of the said Mississippi river to the mouth of the Clearwater river; thence up the middle of the said Clearwater river to the place of beginning." These lines are the present boundaries of Wright county, and have remained unchanged since that time. The description of the boundary, however, is now obsolete, as there is no longer a Davis county, and Carver county has been curtailed.

As late as 1855 there were only ninety-two men in Wright county who voted for delegates to Congress. Of these Rice received 11 votes, Marshall 63 and Olmsted 18.

**Naming the County.** Early in 1855 a meeting was held by the citizens of Monticello to take steps to organize a new county. W. G. McCrory, S. T. Creighton and Samuel M. McManus were appointed a committee to go to St. Paul and present the matter to the territorial legislature. The committee started on their mission, and as there was no road on the west side of the river, they went to Big Lake, in Sherburne county, and took the Burbank stage for St. Paul.

After getting aboard the stage, Mr. McCrory said: "Well, gentlemen, our people failed to suggest a new name for the county last night; now, I have in New York state a very particular political friend whom I would much like to see honored by naming our county after him; it is true that he is a Whig and you are both Democrats, but I hope that at this time you will lay aside all political animosities and agree to name the proposed new county Seward, in honor of Hon. William H. Seward."

His companions, however, would not agree to that proposition, and Mr. McCrory proposed a second choice. He said: "There is a man in Orange county, my native county in New York, a personal friend of mine; you would probably have no objection to naming the county after him, and thus giving him lasting fame. He is a Democrat, not, it is true, my political friend, but a man whom I greatly respect. He is the Hon. Silas Wright." The other two gentlemen were willing, and thus the name of the county was chosen.

**First Officers.** Soon after the establishment of the county, Governor Willis A. Gorman named as county commissioners John McDonald, Sr., Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor. Monticello

was designated as the county seat, and there the board of commissioners held their first meeting on April 9, 1855, the first-named commissioner being chosen as chairman. John O. Haven was appointed clerk of the board and registrar of deeds; Herbert W. McCrory, sheriff; William Creighton, district attorney; James C. Beekman, county treasurer; Israel Record, judge of probate; John O. Haven, county surveyor; Row Brasie, coroner; Selah Markham, Joseph Brown and Dudley P. Chase, assessors.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT.

As previously noted, the first meeting of county commissioners was held April 9, 1855, at Monticello. John McDonald, Sr., Archie Downie and J. D. Taylor constituted the board. Mr. McDonald was appointed chairman, and a full list of officers was chosen.

Three voting precincts were formed, with the following described boundaries: Big Bend precinct, bounded on the east by a line running due south from John O. Haven's northwest corner on the Mississippi river, to the south line of the county, south and west by the county lines, and north by the Mississippi river. Monticello precinct, bounded on the north by the Mississippi river, east by a line running due south from the northwest corner of L. Dimmick's claim on the Mississippi river to the south line of the county, south by the south line of the county, and west by Big Bend precinct. Pleasant Grove precinct, bounded on the north by the Mississippi river, east and south by Crow river, and west by Monticello precinct. These somewhat imperfect descriptions were due to the yet undeveloped region included, the lands remaining unsurveyed until July and August of that year.

The dwelling house of Selah Markham was designated as the place for holding elections in Big Bend precinct, and Selah Markham, John C. Dow and John Oakes appointed judges of election. John C. Dow and Archie Downie were appointed justices of the peace, and Oscar Dow and John Lowell constables.

In Monticello precinct the place designated was the dwelling house of William Creighton. George Brown, William H. Van Ness and Samuel McManus were appointed judges of election, Samuel H. McManus and George M. Bertram justices of the peace, and Newell Houghton and J. B. Rich constables. A few months later, McManus removed from the county and Stephen J. Mason was appointed in his place as justice and James Phillips as judge of election. Phillips removed from the county and Van Ness refused to act, so James C. Beekman and D. B. Sutton were appointed in their places.

In Pleasant Grove precinct the dwelling house of John McDonald, Sr., was designated, and Ezra Tubbs (soon followed by David

McPherson), Charles Lambert and Caleb Chase appointed judges of election; John McDonald, Sr., and Ezra Tubbs were appointed justices of the peace; and William Casley and Otis S. True constables. Archie Downie, Jonah B. Locke and D. L. Ingersoll were appointed assessors for this district.

Each precinct constituted a school district with officers and agents as follows: No. 1, Pleasant Grove precinct, Dudley P. Chase; No. 2, Monticello precinct, Nathan Fletcher; No. 3, Big Bend precinct, Selah Markham. The board of county commissioners gave the clerk permission to hold his office at his residence until an office could be secured and fitted up for him.

The next meeting of the county commissioners was held at Monticello July 2, 1855. McDonald and Taylor were present. A petition was received for a county road from Waterville at the mouth of the Crow river to Monticello. The petition was granted and Philip Boyden, D. L. Ingersoll and the county surveyor were appointed viewers to meet at the house of John McDonald on July 15, 1855, to lay out the road. A petition was also received for a county road from Monticello to El Dorado City at the mouth of the Clearwater river. The petition was granted, and Selah Markham, Frederick Emory and the county surveyor were appointed viewers, to meet at the house of James Chambers in Monticello on August 8, 1855, and lay out and survey the road. A petition was received from David Hanaford, Arthur B. Hanaford and others for a school district bounded as follows: Beginning at the northwest corner of J. W. Hanaford's claim, running thence to the southwest corner of Ball's claim, thence running along his line one mile and a half to a point one-quarter of a mile from the residence of O. W. Slafter, thence north to a point parallel to J. W. Hanaford's east line, and one mile and a half from his northwest corner, thence along his east line to the place of beginning.

A petition was received from Henry Heap, Henry Bradley, Philip Boyden and others for a road from McDonald's landing across the county to Crow river near Bigelow's, later the location of the townsite of Hassan. The petition was granted, and Henry Heap, Henry Bradley and the county surveyor were appointed a committee to meet at McDonald's on Monday, July 16, 1855, and survey and lay out the road.

The following appointments were then made: J. S. Mason, judge of election in Monticello precinct, vice Samuel M. McManus, removed from the county; Joseph C. Walker, sheriff, vice Herbert McCrory, resigned; David McPherson, judge of election in Pleasant Grove precinct, vice Ezra Tubbs, who failed to qualify.

On July 23, 1855, James C. Beekman resigned the office of county treasurer and Row Brasie was appointed to fill the office. He gave bonds and was duly qualified. During this session the



assessment roll was completed, and a tax of eleven mills to the dollar levied on all taxable property. The assessed valuation, as shown by the completed and corrected roll, was \$33,863, on which a tax of \$575.67 was levied, \$84.66 of which was for school purposes. The rolls were placed in the hands of Sheriff Joseph C. Walker for collection. Grand and petit jurors were selected.

The board of county commissioners next met at Monticello, Sept. 3, 1855. A petition was received for a county road from Cedar street, Monticello, south through the prairie along the east shore of Voorhis and Bailey's lakes southwest to Big lake, now called Pelican lake. Row Brasie and E. W. Merrill were appointed viewers. Bills amounting to \$126.52 were audited and allowed, \$31.37 of which was for books and stationery, and the rest for viewing and surveying roads, assessing and taking the census. The taxes collected in 1855, for county and school purposes, amounted to \$293.52.

The commissioners of 1856 were: Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory, and Selah Markham, the first of whom was elected chairman. Their first meeting was held January 7, 1856. At a subsequent meeting in June, \$1,053.84 was levied for county taxes, \$126.71 for territorial, and \$319.28 for school purposes. The assessment by precincts was as follows: Big Bend, \$23,299; Pleasant Grove, \$22,255; Monticello, \$82,180. The fact that about five-eighths of this amount was assessed to Monticello will serve to show the relative advancement in the precincts at that date, a fact largely attributable to the fertile prairie extending back from the river, which first lured the early settlers to the selection and improvement of future homes.

Northwood precinct was created June 9, 1856. The boundaries were described as follows: Commencing at a point on the Mississippi river where the line ends between sections 23 and 26; then running west to the corners of sections 29 and 28, sections 20 and 21, thence south to a point where that line meets Crow river, thence down Crow river to its mouth, thence up the Mississippi to the place of beginning. Polls were established at the home of John Baxter. John Baxter, Walter Butler and A. Bartlett were appointed judges of election.

At the close of 1856 ten school districts had been created.

The commissioners for 1857 were Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory and Ambrose Bryant. The first meeting was held January 5. H. W. McCrory was elected chairman of the board. Various road petitions were received for roads running into almost every part of the county from Monticello, south, west and north. January 6 a petition was received from G. D. George and others asking to be set off into a separate precinct, consisting of townships 119 and 120, range 24. The petition was granted, and the new precinct given the name of Rockford. The following officers

were appointed: Justice of the peace, Cyrus C. Jenks; constable, William O. Eldred; road supervisor, Joel Florida. The election was to be held at the house of Cyrus C. Jenks. A petition was also received from George A. J. Overton and others to establish the precinct of Buffalo, consisting of township 120, range 25, and townships 119 and 120, range 26. The petition was granted and the following officers appointed: Judges of election, Amasa Ackley, Moses S. Calkins and S. B. Culver; justice of the peace, George A. J. Overton; constable, Amasa Ackley; overseer of roads, Moses S. Calkins. The election was to be held at the home of Amasa Ackley. The whole number of scholars in the county as reported were as follows: District 3, 22; district 4, 14; district 5, 51; district 6, 31; district 7, 73; district 8, 25; district 9, 22; district 10, 45.

The board of county commissioners met again at Monticello, April 6, 1857. Various road matters were acted upon. April 7, 1856, a license was granted to G. W. and A. C. Riggs to operate a ferry from the foot of Washington street, town of lower Monticello, across the Mississippi river. The assessment rolls were received, examined and corrected. The total valuation of the property in the county was as follows: Big Bend precinct, \$29,844; Monticello precinct, \$135,675; Pleasant Grove precinct, \$178,880; total, \$344,399. Taxes assessed for the year 1857 were one and one-fourth per cent or twelve and a half mills on each dollar of valuation. The whole work of the county commissioners for the greater part of this year was the laying out of roads and the establishment of school districts.

The commissioners for 1858 were Dudley P. Chase, H. W. McCrory and Joel Florida. The first meeting was held January 4. Joel Florida was chosen chairman. At this meeting it was ordered that a map of the county be furnished by the county surveyor, showing the boundaries of the county, section and town lines, roads and school districts. A settlement was made with the sheriff. The whole amount placed in his hands for collection was \$1,500.03. The amount collected was \$1,441. The amount returned as delinquent was \$59.03.

This, the last board of commissioners elected under the territorial organization, again assembled April 5, 1858. Minnesota was soon to become a state, township elections had been ordered for May 11, 1858, and the board therefore performed its duty and established the following towns: Albion—Township 120, ranges 27 and 28. Buffalo—South half of township 120, range 26, and township 120, range 25, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, in township 119, range 25. Clearwater—Townships 122 and 123, range 27, and township 121, ranges 27 and 28. Frankfort—Township 120, ranges 23 and 24. Newport (changed September 14, 1858, to Franklin)—Township 118, range 25. Monticello—West half of

township 121, range 24, and townships 121 and 122, range 25. Middleville—Township 118, ranges 27 and 28, and township 119, ranges 27 and 28. Maple Lake—South half of township 121, range 26, and north half of township 120, range 26. Otsego—Township 121, range 23, and east half of township 121, range 24. Rockford—Township 119, range 24, and all of township 119, range 25, except that portion included in Buffalo. Silver Creek—Township 122, range 26, and north half of township 121, range 26. Woodland—Townships 118, range 26. Marysville—Township 119, range 26.

Minnesota was admitted as a state May 11, 1858, and on that date the township elections were held. Under the new constitution the county was to be governed by a board of supervisors consisting of the chairmen of the organized towns. This board of supervisors, or the Wright County Court, as it is sometimes called, assembled in the hall of the Academy, Monticello, September 14, 1858, with the following representation: Albion, Robert S. Holmes; Buffalo, Jackson Taylor; Clearwater, Jared D. Wheelock; Frankfort, John M. McAlpine; Newport, C. A. Wright; Monticello, Henry H. Helm; Middleville, John L. King; Otsego, Thomas Ham; Rockford, S. R. Workman; Silver Creek, John O. Haven. The towns of Maple Lake and Woodland were not represented, having failed to elect officers at the required time. The board elected John O. Haven, chairman, and C. B. Jordan, clerk. Later, W. V. B. Holway, having been appointed chairman of Maple Lake, took his seat as a member of the board. October 14, 1858, N. V. Streeter appeared as a member from Woodland and was given a seat. Timothy Lowell applied for a seat as the member from Cokato, but his application was denied. January 3, 1859, E. B. McCord was seated as the member from Maple Lake.

The second board of county supervisors met at Monticello at 2 o'clock on the afternoon of May 7, 1859. Those present were: J. N. Barbour, Monticello; Thomas Ham, Otsego; G. W. Brookins, Silver Creek; R. S. Holmes, Albion; O. L. Dudley, Buffalo; M. Jellison, Maple Lake; C. A. Wright, Franklin; J. F. Standish, Rockford; J. M. McAlpine. Thomas Ham was elected chairman and John O. Haven was elected auditor and clerk of the board. Dr. J. D. Wheelock, from Clearwater, took his seat July 12, 1859. On September 13, Michael Jordan, from Woodland, took his seat. A question arose as to the legality of the organization. All but one voted that they were of the opinion that the board was properly organized. Robert S. Holmes expressed the negative opinion. September 14 the town of Freedom was created from the towns of Buffalo and Rockford. September 15, M. V. Cochran took his seat as supervisor from Middleville. H. S. Brookens was admitted as a member from Silver Creek, February 27, 1860.

Minnesota having adopted the commission system of county



government, the newly elected board of county commissioners assembled June 4, 1860. Samuel Bennett, chairman, of Monticello; Asa W. Lucas, of Rockford; John A. Mallette, of Otsego; Willis G. Butler, of Clearwater and D. S. Calkins, of Buffalo, were present. Commissioners' districts were assigned as follows:

1. Clearwater, Silver Creek, Delhi.
2. Monticello.
3. Buffalo, Maple Lake, Albion and Middleville.
4. Rockford, Franklin and Woodland.
5. Otsego and Frankford.

November 13, 1860, the board was notified that the State Board of Equalization had added one hundred per cent to the assessed valuation of real estate in the county, making it \$484,319. March 5, 1861, a motion was passed by the board attaching a part of Silver Creek to Clearwater, subject to the vote of the respective townships. September 3, 1861, a resolution was passed accusing H. L. Gordan of fraud in substituting in the files a different resolution from the one which was passed. At the same session A. P. Mooers resigned as chairman of the board and J. B. Blanchard was appointed.

The commissioners for 1861 were J. B. Blanchard, Monticello; H. L. Gordon, Delhi; F. S. McDonald, Otsego; A. P. Mooers, Middleville; G. A. Ruckholdt, Rockford. They assembled January 1, 1861, and after nine ballots, named A. P. Mooers as chairman. January 2, 1861, a petition for and remonstrance against the proposition to set off a portion of the town of Silver Creek and attach same to Clearwater were laid on the table. January 3 it was voted to allow school district 7 \$7 for holding the district court terms of October, 1859, and March and September, 1860, in the schoolhouse. The second floor of Chambers' store building at Monticello was rented for several of the county offices. On September 3, 1861, the boundaries of several townships were altered.

All of that part of township 119, range 25, lying north of the north fork of the Crow river was set off from Rockford and attached to Franklin.

All that part of township 119, range 26, lying on the south side of the north branch of the Crow river was set off from Buffalo and attached to Woodland.

Townships 118 and 119, range 28, were ranged as Mooers' Prairie. An election was ordered held at the home of David Griffith, with David Griffith, Daniel Rose and Luman Putnam as judges of election.

In 1862 the board consisted of Isaac Hager, A. E. Oaks, E. B. McCord, Gerhard Ebben and D. R. Farnham. Isaac Hager was elected chairman.



January 9 it was voted to set off section and fractional sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18, townships 122, range 26, from Silver Creek and attach same to Clearwater.

It was this board that on August 12, 1862, voted a bounty to such soldiers as should enlist from this county subsequent to August 1, 1862.

Commissioners' districts were established September 2, 1862, as follows:

1. Clearwater, Silver Creek, Delhi, Maple Lake and Albion.
2. Monticello, Otsego and Frankfort.
3. Rockford, Buffalo, Franklin, Woodland, Middleville and Mooers Prairie.

It was voted that the town of Rockford should consist of township 119, range 25, and fractional township 119, range 24.

Woodland was to consist of township 118, range 26, and the south half of township 119, range 26.

The north half of township 119, range 26, belonged to Buffalo.

The board for 1863 consisted of Samuel Bennett, A. E. Oaks and D. R. Farnham, the number of commissioners having been reduced from five to three. The board met January 6, 1863, and named Samuel Bennett as chairman.

June 9 the town of Delhi was renamed Corinna. On the same day the county was divided into six military districts.

In 1864 the board consisted of Samuel Bennett (chairman), A. E. Oaks and D. R. Farnham. March 2, 1864, this board authorized the chairman to grant liquor licenses at not less than \$50. April 7, 1864, the act granting bounties to volunteers was repealed.

The board for 1865 consisted of W. W. Marvin (chairman), A. E. Oaks and D. R. Farnham. French Lake, consisting of township 120, range 28, was created from a part of what had previously been the town of Albion.

In 1866 the board consisted of W. W. Marvin (chairman), A. E. Oaks and D. R. Farnham. January 4, 1866, township 118, range 27, was set off from Middleville and created as Victor. Township 120, range 26, was set off from Maple Lake and Buffalo, January 5, 1866, and created as Chatham. A further account of this will be found under the history of Chatham. This board held office until March, 1866, when a new board came in.

The board which went into office in March, 1866, consisted of A. E. Oaks, T. C. Shapleigh and D. R. Farnham. This board organized March 13, 1866, and elected T. C. Shapleigh chairman. March 14 township 119, range 26, was created as Marysville, the north half being taken from Buffalo and the south half from Woodland. October 5, 1865, the board granted the petition of Daniel Kreidler and others asking that Rockford be allowed to vote on the subject of granting licenses in that township. October 9, 1866, township 101, range 26, was created as Maple Lake.

Maple Lake had been created many years before, the 1866 petition being one of the moves in the Chatham-Maple Lake difficulty.

In 1867 the board assembled. January 1 D. R. Farnham was present from the third district. A. E. Oakes appeared from the first district with a certificate of election for three years from January 1, 1867. T. C. Shapleigh appeared from the second district with a certificate of election for one year from January 1, 1867. T. C. Shapleigh was appointed chairman. In the spring various measures were taken for the relief of the destitute in the western part of the county.

The board for 1868 consisted of the same gentlemen, T. C. Shapleigh having been reelected for three years. He was chosen chairman of the board. February 19 all that portion of township 121, range 28, south of Clearwater river was set off from Corinna and created as South Side township. This was the year when the railroad lands were taxed. H. L. Gordon was voted \$400 to defend any suits which might be brought against the county by the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company in this connection. March 23, 1868, the board met for the first time in Buffalo and the offices were established in that village a few days later. July 17 township 119, range 28, was created as Cokato. The county seat having been removed to Buffalo and the jail property having reverted to the original owners, the commissioners made a contract with Z. M. Brown for renting the jail for a year.

In 1869 the board consisted of A. E. Oakes from the first district, T. C. Shapleigh from the second district, and N. C. Rickerson from the third district. Mr. Shapleigh was elected chairman. March 11 the name of Mooers Prairie was changed to Union.

The board for 1870 consisted of Samuel Whiting, Jr., from the first district, T. C. Shapleigh from the second district, and N. C. Rickerson from the third district. Shapleigh was elected chairman. March 8 Thomas McLeod was appointed a member of the board from the second district in place of T. C. Shapleigh, resigned. Samuel Whiting, Jr., was elected chairman.

In 1871 the board consisted of Thomas McLeod from the second district, N. C. Rickerson from the third district, and Samuel Whiting, Jr., from the first district. Mr. Whiting was elected chairman. January 6 the county was redistricted as follows:

1. Clearwater, Corinna, Southside (previous to this the name appears in the records as two words—South Side), Silver Creek, and Maple Lake.
2. Monticello, Otsego and Frankfort.
3. Rockford, Franklin and Buffalo.
4. Woodland, Marysville, Chatham, Albion and French Lake.
5. Victor, Stockholm, Cokato and Middleville.

A vacancy was declared to exist in each of the districts, and the appointing board issued the following certificates of appointment: District 1, Samuel Whiting, Jr.; 2, Thomas McLeod; 3, James Sturges; 4, Horace J. Hill; 5, N. C. Rickerson. The new board assembled February 20, 1871, with Samuel Whiting, Jr., in the chair.

The board for 1872 was constituted as follows: District 1, W. H. Phillips; 2, William Tubbs; 3, P. M. Wright; 4, M. C. O'Donohoe; 5, K. O. Molsterteigen. William Tubbs was chosen chairman. It was this board which clearly stated that the county would not at its own expense establish any section corners. It was this board passed on the claims for damages by fire and storm during the summer and fall of 1871. The board on October 16 voted to bring action against A. F. Barker, former clerk of court, for failure to record marriage licenses while in office. It was this board that took up the matter of securing title to part of the present court house square and determined to go ahead with the building of a foundation for a court house.

In 1873 the board was constituted as follows: District 1, W. H. Phillips; 2, William Tubbs; 3, P. M. Wright; 4, M. C. O'Donohoe; 5, K. O. Molsterteigen. William Tubbs was elected chairman. This board took up the court house and secured deeds to the larger part of what is now the court house square.

The board for 1874 consisted of the following members: District 1, William H. Phillips; 2, William Tubbs; 3, Jonas Johnson; 4, M. C. O'Donohoe; 5, K. O. Molsterteigen. Tubbs was chosen chairman.

In 1875 the board was the same with the exception that William Tubbs having been elected county auditor, Michael Jaeb, appointed by the auditor, judge of probate and registrar of deeds, served from the second district. Jonas Johnson was chairman. The state census having revealed a material difference in the population of the different commissioner's districts, a reapportionment was made as follows:

1. Clearwater, Silver Creek, Maple Lake, Corinna, South Side and French Lake.
2. Monticello, Otsego, Frankford and Buffalo.
3. Franklin, Rockford and Woodland.
4. Marysville, Middleville, Albion and Chatham.
5. Cokato, Stockholm and Victor.

The board for 1876 was constituted as follows: District 1, Thomas C. Porter; 2, Frank Weigel; 3, Jonas Johnson; 4, Odilion Berthiaume; 5, K. O. Molsterteigen. Thomas C. Porter was chosen chairman. This board, startled at the increasing expense of unnecessary litigation, notified the county attorney to correspond with the various justices of the peace in an effort to prevent the bringing of trivial suits in the name of the state of Minnesota. Feb-

ruary 15, 1876, the board asked for bids on the construction of a court house according to the plans and specifications of C. N. Daniels, of Rice county, which had been accepted by the previous board. Bonds were issued, the contract let, an additional piece of land purchased and the work started.

In 1877 the board was constituted as follows: District 1, T. C. Porter (chairman); 2, Odilion Berthiaume; 3, Abraham Ilstrup; 4, K. O. Molsterteigen; 2, O. H. Bushnell. William Tubbs was employed to make an abstract of entries, for which he was to receive \$100.

The board for 1878 was made up as follows: District 1, T. C. Porter (chairman); 2, O. H. Bushnell; 3, Abraham Ilstrup; 3, Charles W. Bonniwell; 5, H. E. Jones. Porter and Bushnell served as a committee to beautify the court house grounds.

1879. —1, Martin O'Laughlin; 2, O. H. Bushnell; 3, Abraham Ilstrup; 4, Charles W. Bonniwell; 5, H. E. Jones. H. E. Jones was named as chairman.

1880.—1, Martin O'Laughlin; 2, Stephen Schumacher; 3, W. W. Crooks; 4, Charles W. Bonniwell; 5, H. C. Jones. H. E. Jones was chosen chairman.

1881.—1, Martin O'Laughlin (chairman); 2, Stephen Schumacher; 3, W. W. Crooks; 4, Joseph Bland; 5, A. P. Peterson. This board rearranged the commissioners' districts as follows:

1. Chatham, Clearwater, Corinna, Maple Lake, French Lake, Silver Creek and Southside.

2. Frankford, Buffalo, Monticello and Otsego.

3. Franklin, Rockford and Woodland.

4. Albion, Marysville and Middleville.

5. Cokato, Stockholm and Victor.

1882.—1, Martin O'Laughlin; 2, Stephen Schumacher; 3, W. W. Crooks (chairman); 4, Joseph Bland; 5, A. P. Peterson. Under this administration E. B. McCord, county surveyor, established stone markers at the northwest corners of the various townships except those of township 120, range 24, which lies in Pelican lake.

1883.—1, Martin O'Laughlin; 2, A. W. Hoar; 3, William Ziebarth; 4, Joseph Bland; 5, A. P. Peterson (chairman).

1884.—Same as previous year, with the exception that the fourth district was represented by Henry Lammers.

1885.—1, D. H. Weir; 2, A. W. Hoar; 3, William Ziebarth; 4, Henry Lammers; 5, A. P. Peterson. A. W. Hoar was selected as chairman.

1886.—The board was the same as in the previous year. A. P. Peterson was chosen as chairman.

1887.—1, D. H. Weir; 2, Thomas McLeod; 3, William Ziebarth; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, Ole Mattson. D. H. Weir was chosen as chairman. March 1, 1887, W. W. Webster succeeded



D. H. Weir as member from the first district. Thomas McLeod was selected as chairman.

1889.—1, A. D. Kingsley; 2, Thomas McLeod; 3, D. R. Thompson; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, Ole Mattson. Ole Mattson was chosen as chairman.

1891.—1, A. D. Kingsley; 2, L. W. Haefer; 3, D. R. Thompson; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, Ole Mattson (chairman).

1893.—1, George S. Ruscoe; 2, Louis W. Haefer; 3, Charles Bugbee; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, Ole Mattson (chairman).

1895.—1, Thomas Hudek; 2, August Hafften; 3, Charles Bugbee; 4, John Buckman; 5, G. A. Kemper.

1897.—1, Thomas Hudek; 2, August Hafften; 3, J. F. Lauzer; 4, John Buckman; 5, A. G. Johnson.

1899.—1, Thomas Hudek; 2, Joseph Reems; 3, J. F. Lauzer; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, A. G. Johnson.

1901.—1, J. A. Ferguson; 2, Joseph Reems; 3, Charles Bugbee; 4, D. W. Flannigan; 5, A. G. Johnson.

1903.—1, J. A. Ferguson; 2, William H. Marvin; 3, Charles Bugbee; 4, John Kelley; 5, A. G. Johnson.

1905.—1, C. F. Zimmerman; 2, W. H. Marvin; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelley; 5, P. H. Johnson.

1907.—1, C. F. Zimmerman; 2, Frank Zachman; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelly; 5, P. H. Johnson.

1909.—1, J. F. Baker; 2, Frank Zachman; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelley; 5, Bernard Nelson.

1911.—1, J. F. Baker; 2, C. O. Taylor; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelley; 5, Bernard Nelson.

1913.—1, J. F. Baker; 2, C. O. Taylor; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelley; 5, Bernard Nelson.

1915.—1, J. F. Baker; 2, W. J. Elliott; 3, Ezra W. Ferrell; 4, John Kelley; 5, Bernard Nelson.

### COUNTY OFFICERS.

In the early days, the records were not as perfectly kept as now, and the early election returns have not been preserved. After long research, however, a list of officials of the county has been prepared, and with a few omissions of a few holders of minor offices for the first few years of the county's existence, the list is believed to be correct.

**Auditor.** Until January 1, 1859, the offices of auditor, registrar of deeds and clerk of the board of county commissioners were combined. John O. Haven took office April 9, 1855, followed January 1, 1857, by C. B. Jordan. Ed. P. Abbott took office as the first auditor under the new law, January 1, 1859. John O. Haven seems, however, to have performed the duties of the office after the first month, and on May 7, 1859, Mr. Haven became the

regular auditor. Then came James Chambers, January 1, 1860; J. W. Mulvey, March 4, 1861; H. Kreis, March 2, 1863, and J. R. Ames, March 14, 1871. G. A. Ruckholdt, as deputy, had charge of the office under Mr. Ames, and on November 7, 1873, was duly appointed to the office of auditor. William Tubbs took office March 1, 1875. During his illness, in 1875, his deputy, W. H. Cady, had charge of the office. Since Mr. Tubbs the auditors have been: J. N. Stacy, March 7, 1881; George E. Stacy, January 1, 1887; Arthur C. Heath, January 1, 1891; Frank B. Lamson, January 1, 1893; H. S. Swanberg, January 1, 1897; Aaron Reinmuth (appointed), October 2, 1900; Henry C. Brasie (appointed), March 1, 1904; John A. Berg, January 1, 1909.

Swanberg was deputy under Lamson and succeeded to the office. Reinmuth was deputy to Swanberg and succeeded him, first by appointment and later by election. Brasie was deputy to Reinmuth and during Reinmuth's illness was acting auditor for a while. Brasie was succeeded as deputy auditor by P. H. Fogarty, who was acting auditor during the latter part of Reinmuth's illness. Reinmuth died February 27, 1904, and Brasie and Fogarty were candidates for his position. Brasie won by a 3 to 2 vote, and was afterwards elected by the people. Berg was deputy to Brasie. Lamson served for some years as deputy under Berg, thus completing the circle.

**Treasurer.** James C. Beekman became treasurer April 9, 1855, but resigned soon afterwards, and was followed by Row Brasie, July 21, 1855. Since then the treasurers have been: Nathan Fletcher, March 1, 1856; G. D. George, March 1, 1862; Alexander Ambler, March 1, 1864 (J. J. Smith filled out the term from March 10, 1865); Frank M. Parcher, March 1, 1866; Cyrus Redlon, March 1, 1870; John Young, March 1, 1874; Nathan Warner, March 1, 1880; Gustaf Bodin, January 1, 1884; Frank McKnight, January 1, 1891; Ole Mattson, January 1, 1895; A. Hanaford, January 1, 1897; Thomas Hudek, January 1, 1901; August Johnson, January 1, 1905; Orson C. Chamberlin, January 1, 1909.

**Registrar of Deeds.** Until January 1, 1859, the offices of auditor, registrar of deeds and clerk of the board of county commissioners were combined. John O. Haven took office April 9, 1855, followed January 1, 1857, by C. B. Jordan. After the offices were separated, Jordan continued as registrar of deeds. A. P. Mooers was appointed September 3, 1861, and W. C. Williams was chosen at a special election held October 8, 1861. William H. Houlton took office January 1, 1866. George W. Carpenter was appointed January 2, 1867. Since then the registrars have been: January 1, 1868; Joseph E. Warren; Ign. Gutzwiller, Jr., January 1, 1870; Frank W. Gorman, January 1, 1876; Fred Brandes, January 1, 1880; James H. Hoover, January 1, 1887; Isaac S. Podas, January 1, 1891; E. M. Nagel, January 1, 1895; August Hafften, January

1, 1899; O. M. Palmquist, January 1, 1903; Albert Hafften, January 1, 1907; Oscar J. Peterson, January 1, 1909.

**Sheriff.** Herbert W. McCrory was the first sheriff of Wright county. He resigned and Joseph C. Walker was appointed July 2, 1855. Since then the sheriffs have been: George M. Bertram, January 1, 1856; W. Smith Brookins, January 1, 1860; Harvey S. Brookins, January 1, 1862; L. C. Pickins (appointed), September 2, 1862; D. S. Calkins (appointed), February 12, 1863; Charles Judson, January 1, 1864; H. W. Brookins (appointed), March 16, 1865; H. W. Fuller, January 1, 1866; Isaac S. Crooks, January 1, 1868; W. H. Lord (appointed), February 16, 1869; John C. Nugent, January 1, 1870; Mark M. Woolley, January 1, 1889; John C. Nugent, January 1, 1891; George C. Carpenter, January 1, 1893; John C. Nugent, January 1, 1897; William G. Young, January 1, 1903; Angus H. Grant, Jan. 1, 1905.

**County Attorney.** In the early days, the office of county attorney was somewhat vague and uncertain. William Creighton took office April 9, 1855. He was followed January 1, 1857, by J. C. Parker. Charles King was appointed July 6, 1857. January 13, 1859, the minutes of the county commissioners contain the information that "Edward Hartley is discharged from further service." January 4, 1860, the board decided that there was no such office as county attorney. But on February 28, 1860, the members relented, recognized B. I. Hinman and voted him an annual salary of \$150. Edward Wait, of Monticello, was appointed March 5, 1861. Since then the attorneys have been: Edward Hartley, January 1, 1862; H. L. Gordon, January 1, 1864; Thomas R. Briggs, January 1, 1866; W. E. Hale, January 1, 1870; J. F. Dilley, January 1, 1872; J. H. Wendell, January 1, 1876; A. Y. Eaton, January 1, 1882; W. E. Culkin, January 1, 1887; W. H. Cutting, January 1, 1891; W. E. Culkin, January 1, 1893; J. T. Alley, January 1, 1895; James C. Tarbox, January 1, 1897. Mr. Tarbox resigned in the spring of 1897 on being appointed district judge, and C. A. Pidgeon was appointed. Egbert S. Oakley took office January 1, 1901, and served until he resigned, in June, 1903, on being appointed receiver of the land office at Cass Lake. William H. Cutting was appointed his successor. J. J. Woolley took office January 1, 1907, and Stephen A. Johnson, January 1, 1913.

**Judge of Probate.** In the early days, the judges of probate had but little work to do, the people for the most part were young, and there were few estates to settle. Isreal Record took office April 9, 1855, followed by: Perez T. Record, January 1, 1856; James C. Beckman (appointed), January 7, 1856; S. J. Mason, January 1, 1857; and Franklin Wood (appointed), October 6, 1857. In December, 1857, Charles King was acting as judge of probate. In the early and middle parts of 1858, J. G. Smith

acted. In the latter part of 1858, Edward Hartley acted. Following him came: J. N. Barber (appointed), January 4, 1859; T. G. Mealey (appointed), January 8, 1863; David Brooks, January 1, 1866; George W. Carpenter, January 1, 1868; Thomas A. Perrine, January 1, 1870; H. Charles Morneau, January 1, 1874; Daniel Fish, January 1, 1876; John F. Dilley, January 1, 1878; Daniel Fish (appointed by Gov. John S. Pillsbury to fill vacancy caused by death of Dilley), July 15, 1879; David Cochran, January 1, 1880; John T. Alley, January 1, 1887; John J. Woolley, January 1, 1895; William H. Cochrane, January 1, 1901. Mr. Cochrane died in March, 1902, and J. J. Woolley was appointed. Henry Spindler was elected January 1, 1907.

**Coroner.** Row Brasie took office April 9, 1855. It has been impossible to secure a complete list of those who served from that date until January 1, 1872, as the position seems to have been a haphazard one. J. M. Reilers seems to have been serving on August 1, 1867, and J. M. Keeler on July 15, 1871. Since the beginning of 1872 the coroners have been: R. O. Cady, January 1, 1872; Elam S. Gibbs, January 1, 1878; S. E. Dean, January 1, 1880; E. Y. Chilton, January 1, 1884; John S. Shrader, January 1, 1887; Herbert Alfred Pinault, January 1, 1889; John S. Shrader (appointed), September 24, 1889; Henry E. Cassell, January 1, 1891; Sidney R. Wakefield, January 1, 1893; E. A. Shannon, January 1, 1897; C. B. Powell, January 1, 1899; A. G. Moffatt, January 1, 1903.

**Clerk of Court.** E. W. Merrill became clerk of court January 1, 1856. When the state was admitted Thomas Chambers was in office, though James Chambers acted as his deputy much of the time. H. B. Hill took office January 1, 1862, but during the remainder of that year Samuel E. Adams and James Chambers appear to have been in charge of the office as deputies. Mr. Hill himself assumed the duties of the office in 1863. Since then the court clerks have been: James Chambers, January 1, 1865; A. F. Barker, January 1, 1866; W. W. Brasie, January 1, 1870; George A. Hoffman, January 1, 1872; W. W. Brasie, January 1, 1880; Oliver J. Steward, January 1, 1884; John O'Leary, January 1, 1892; Charles H. Vorse, January 1, 1896; James J. Erickson, January 1, 1901; Edward C. Tuttle, January 1, 1909.

In 1884 and previously, there were annual elections. The county auditor was always elected in the even years, the other officers in the odd years. The clerk of the district court holds office four years under the constitution. Thus, all the officers that were elected in 1883, except the clerk of court, had three years to serve, the next election being in 1886. The auditor did not get an extra year as the others did because there was to be an election for auditor and court commissioner under the old law in 1884. The clerk of the court began his term in January.



1884, and there being no election in 1887 (for the term beginning in January, 1888), the election for clerk of court was held in the fall of 1886, fourteen months before the person elected could take office. Thus the successive terms began in January, 1884, 1888, 1892 and 1896. The legislature determined that there should be an election for the office of clerk of court in the fall of 1896, and every four years thereafter, the first successful candidate taking office in January, 1897. This left a year between the expiration of Mr. O'Leary's term, and the time when a new clerk could take office by election. The judges appointed Charles H. Vorse to fill the vacancy thus created. The feeling was running high, O'Leary being a Democrat and Vorse a Republican. The matter was taken to the courts and the Supreme Court (64 Minnesota, p. 207) held that Vorse was properly appointed, and gave him the office. In the fall of 1906 he was elected by vote for four years, thus holding the position five years in all.

**Court Commissioner.** Edward Hartley appears to have been court commissioner in 1862. Since 1870 the commissioners have been: Samuel Adams, January 1, 1870; Joseph H. Wendell, January 1, 1874; John F. Dilley (appointed), March 10, 1876; William Van Eman, January 1, 1877; Samuel Porter, November 28, 1877; David Cochran, Jan. 1, 1878; S. A. Putnam, June 25, 1881; C. H. Vorse, January 1, 1909. The court commissioner and the county auditor were elected in 1884, all the other in 1883.

**Superintendent of Schools.** The list of county superintendents will be found in the chapter on County Schools, which appears in this work.

**Surveyor.** The first county surveyor was John O. Haven, who took office April 9, 1855. In the early days various people not professional surveyors were appointed as viewers and surveyors of proposed county roads, and thus many county surveyors appear on the early records. Mr. Haven was, however, the real county surveyor. May 4, 1857, A. W. Wood took office. E. T. Abbott became county surveyor April 6, 1858. E. B. McCord was appointed June 9, 1863. B. F. Miller took office March 13, 1866. Since then nearly all the surveyors have taken office in January. They are: 1870, James Jenks; 1872, Josephus Alley; 1878, James Jenks; 1880, W. W. Strong; 1882, E. B. McCord; 1884, Willis W. Strong; (March 17) 1885, E. B. McCord; 1889, Perry B. Fletcher; 1891, E. B. McCord; 1893, Halvor T. Moland; 1897, Guy A. Eaton; 1899, Axel A. Bloom; 1905, E. J. Beedy; 1907, Edward Merz; 1909, Halvor T. Moland. Mr. Moland became postmaster at Buffalo, and was followed as surveyor by D. C. Washburn, whose present term expires in 1919.

Note. Arthur C. Heath, expert abstractor and former county auditor, who is probably more familiar with the records of Wright county than any other man now living, has revised and amplified

the above list of officers, assisted by J. T. Alley, and the list is, therefore, probably as correct a one as could be made. This is the first time that such a list of Wright county officers has ever been compiled, and its value is at once apparent.

### COUNTY PROPERTY.

**Jail.** As early as October 15, 1858, the commissioners took up the matter of building a court house and jail. The supervisors inherited the problem. July 15, 1859, the matter was definitely decided and the building of a jail placed in the hands of a committee. The cost of the jail was to be \$1,500 and county bonds were to be issued bearing interest at 12 per cent. During the discussion it was suggested that as Wright county was on the frontier, surrounded by more sparsely settled counties, considerable money might be made by keeping prisoners for other counties. On September 15, 1859, the board voted to issue the bonds, placing them in the hands of the county auditor, except three hundred dollars advance payment to the contractor. The building was of hewed tamarack logs, clap-boarded outside and lathed and plastered inside. It was furnished with six cells, situated on either side of a hall running through the center. The size of the jail was about 20 by 24, and was built on land a few rods northwest of the Academy building, deeded for that purpose by Smith & Brown so long as used for county purposes. When the building was completed it had cost the county \$2,500, instead of the sum before named, and when, in later years, the county seat was removed to Buffalo, the land reverted to the original owners, and with it the old jail, in which few prisoners had ever been confined.

The county has now no jail. There are cells in the basement of the court house for temporary detention, but prisoners who are subject to imprisonment in a county jail are taken to Hennepin county and incarcerated there. This has proven a satisfactory arrangement, the cost being less than the expense of maintaining a jail.

**Court House.** In territorial days the county seat of Wright county was located at Monticello. When the state was admitted in 1858, there were several candidates for county seat honors, but Monticello was still the metropolis of the county, and the people of that village won an easy victory.

As time passed and the county paid its outstanding debts, the propriety of building a court house was discussed. The county offices were kept in several places. The auditor and treasurer occupied a room together. The other officials had no offices, and the records were scattered throughout private homes. Before a court house was built, a permanent location of the seat of government must be fixed upon.

September 3, 1861, Jackson Taylor, of Buffalo, presented a

petition asking that the county seat be transferred to Buffalo. The vote came up in the fall, the ballots being marked "For Removal of County Seat to Buffalo," and "Against Removal of County Seat to Buffalo." The proposition was defeated.

With the now more general distribution of settlers throughout the county, the question of removing the county seat from Monticello to some more central point was more vigorously agitated, and in the legislature of 1867 a bill was passed submitting the matter to a vote of the people at the fall election of that year. As a result of this measure, the location was fixed at Buffalo. The last meeting of the county commissioner at Monticello was held March 12, 1868, and the first at Buffalo, March 23, 1868. January 10, 1868, the legislature was asked to rescind an action which it had taken authorizing the people of Wright county to issue bonds for the court house, such an issue having been made unnecessary by the generosity of the citizens of Buffalo.

In accordance with a previous agreement, the citizens of Buffalo erected a building for court room and offices, which was furnished the county free of rent for a term of five years. This building was 24 by 36 feet, and two stories high. It was later owned by C. E. Oakley, the upper room being known as Oakley's Hall, and used for society and public meetings. A brick vault was also built adjoining the old court house on the east, during the construction of which a partial collapse gave Mr. Gardner, the builder, a temporary burial, from which, however, he was resurrected with slight injuries.

In 1873 the five years' lease of the temporary court house expired and the building was purchased from Jackson Taylor, James Sturges and O. L. Dudley for \$900. But it was inadequate, and in the same year the legislature authorized the county to issue court house bonds. The proposition was submitted to the people at the township elections that spring, but the measure was defeated. In 1875 the legislature passed an act authorizing the board of county commissioners to issue the necessary bonds without submitting the matter to a vote of the people.

Accordingly a committee was appointed, who, after examining several public buildings in different parts of the state, reported that a suitable and convenient building, with heavy brick walls and stone foundations, could be erected at a maximum cost of \$35,000. Plans and specifications were furnished by C. N. Daniels, and bids solicited. The contract was awarded to Bisbee, Bardwell & Moses, of Minneapolis, for \$26,640. A portion of the stone used in the foundation was obtained near Buffalo lake, the remainder being brought from Minneapolis. The bricks were burned near by, thus lessening the otherwise heavy expense of building. The mason work was carried on under the supervision of Joseph Nelson, then nearly eighty years old.

On January 1, 1878, the new court house was occupied by the county officers. The additional expenditure of some \$3,000 in fencing, erecting outbuildings and ornamenting the grounds, added much to its original appearance. Viewed from the margin of the lake on the south, with its terraced grounds, sightly walks and greenwood background, its imposing structure affords a perspective such as artists admire, and of which the citizens of Wright county are justly proud.

After the legislature had authorized the board to issue the bonds without the vote of the people, there was still much opposition to the building of the court house. When the matter came to a vote before the county commissioners, those who voted for the project were Jonas Johnson, Odilion Berthiaume and K. O. Molsterteigen, and to these men the county owes the fact that it has a court house today. Thomas C. Porter and Frank Weigel voted against it. The building committee consisted of Frank Weigel, Jonas Johnson and Odilion Berthiaume.

**Alms House and County Farm.** The county farm consists of fifty-six acres on Lake Constance. The house is modern in every respect, consisting of sixteen rooms, aside from the bath rooms, halls, closets and the like. The place is in charge of Burton Prestidge.

### BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW.

**Angus H. Grant**, the capable and efficient sheriff of Wright county, is a native-born son, having first seen the light of day in Buffalo township October 28, 1860, son of Archibald and Eliza (Wilson) Grant, the pioneers. He was taken by his parents to Canada during the Indian scare of 1862-63, but aside from that has spent the span of his years in this vicinity. After receiving a good education in the district schools, he learned the carpenter's trade from his father, who, among other contracts, assisted in building the Wright county court house in 1877. The young man who in the future was to become the sheriff followed his trade for many years. About 1900 he became a grain dealer in Buffalo and followed this business for some four years. In the meantime he had become an auctioneer, and his work in this line won for him the confidence and respect of the people throughout the county. In the fall of 1904 he ran for sheriff on the Republican ticket, the party to which his father before him had adhered. He was elected, and on January 1, 1905, took office. Since that date he has served continuously. Sheriff Grant is an ideal officer. Commanding in appearance, courageous of spirit, diplomatic and shrewd in his handling of difficult cases, constantly attentive to duty and never found wanting when his presence is needed, he has administered the law without fear or favor, and has made Wright county one of the most law-abiding counties in the state. With his stern attention to duty he mingles a kindly tempera-



ment, and no criminal ever leaves him without receiving a word of admonition and encouragement for the future. In the administration of the civil matters which come to his office he is discreet and prompt, and he is a general favorite with lawyers throughout the state. Sheriff Grant is a man of genial disposition, with a ready smile and a warm handclasp. He is respected and honored by old and young alike throughout the county. In his hours of relaxation he is a delightful companion, and he numbers his friends by the hundreds. With his good fellowship and loyal friendships, it is natural that Sheriff Grant should be a prominent and popular fraternity man. He is a Thirty-second degree Mason, has been a member of the I. O. O. F. for some quarter of a century, has belonged to the Woodmen of the World for some time, and in 1913 became a member of St. Cloud Lodge, No. 165, B. P. O. E. Sheriff Grant was married, April 13, 1884, to Charity F. Walker, a daughter of Henry T. Walker, who is elsewhere appropriately mentioned. Mrs. Grant is a member of the Eastern Star and of the Rebekah degree. The sunshine of the beautiful Grant home is a little girl, Medford Audrey, now four years old. Sheriff and Mrs. Grant have one of the prettiest residences in the county. Conveniently designed, it is furnished with every comfort, and the good taste of the ones who planned it is everywhere apparent. It is surrounded by a beautiful lawn, and commands a picturesque view of Buffalo lake.

**Edward Clark Tuttle**, clerk of court, was born in La Crosse, Wis., July 26, 1873, son of Birdsey N. and Helen M. (Bausman) Tuttle. Birdsey N. Tuttle was born in Boston, Mass., and became a merchant and contractor in La Crosse, Wis., where he died in 1899. He was married in that city, and there his wife still lives. She was a native of Darmstadt, Germany, and came to America when she was fourteen years old. The children in the family were Laura, Fred, Jesse, Norman, Edward C. and Nellie. Edward C. received his education in the schools of La Crosse. In 1889 he came to Minnesota and located at Howard Lake, where he engaged in the barber business. While there he served as village recorder and as justice of the peace. He also became a director in the German American bank, of that place, a position he still occupies. In December, 1908, he was elected county clerk of court, and in 1912 he was elected to succeed himself. At the 6th Congressional Republican Convention held in the city of Brainerd, Minn., Mr. Tuttle was elected delegate to the National Republican Convention, held at Chicago, Ill., June 17 to 22, 1912. Mr. Tuttle is a member of Howard Lake Lodge, No. 82, A. F. & A. M. of Howard Lake; king of Buffalo Chapter, No. 71, R. A. M., of Buffalo; member of Howard Lodge, No. 136, K. of P., of Howard Lake; was a clerk of Howard Lake Lodge, No. 2551, M. W. A., of Howard Lake; and belong to Buffalo lodge, No. 141,

L. O. O. F. and Paran Encampment, No. 42, L. O. O. F., of Montrose. Mr. Tuttle was married December 18, 1893, to Marie F. Thompson, of Howard Lake, born at Logansport, Ind. Marie F. (Thompson) Tuttle is the daughter of Alexander E. Thompson and Sarah Etta (Scott) Thompson. Alexander E. Thompson was born in Cass County, Ind. He was married in that county and moved by team in covered wagon to Victor township, Wright county, in 1877. He died May 5, 1779, and his wife now lives at Howard Lake, Minn. The children in the Thompson family are Marie F., born July 22, 1876, at Logansport, Ind., and George F. Thompson, born April 8, 1878, in Victor township, Wright county, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Tuttle have had six children. Stuart and Cecil are dead. Marguerite Helen, Lorna May, Frank Scott and Birdsey Norman, live at home. Mr. Tuttle is a splendid example of the success that may be attained through intelligence and hard work by a man of high aims and sturdy forebears. Ever inspired with the purpose of making the most of himself and at the same time to promote the best interests of his fellow man, he has well deserved the pleasant things of life that have come to him. He has demonstrated that when his rights are assailed he is a powerful antagonist, and no less is he a staunch and loyal friend. As a man he occupies a position of probity and influence, as a citizen he has always stood for progress, as an official he is thoroughly and uniformly courteous. The popularity which Mr. Tuttle's genial temperament and never-failing good nature have won for him is founded on a solid foundation of true worth, and although he has already achieved an enviable measure of prosperity and success, yet, being still a young man, his friends predict for him an even more notable future.

**John A. Berg**, son of Andrew and Charlotte (Carlson) Berg, was born in Minneapolis, Minn., March 30, 1882. His parents emigrated to America from Sweden in 1873, locating in Minneapolis; and in 1882 removed to Cokato, Minn., where, in July of the same year, the father died. The mother was left with a family of six children to care for, but it was not long before the cares and worries of the home were lightened by the aid given her by the elder children. Mr. Berg's boyhood was spent at Cokato, where he found employment during the vacation period and attended the village school, where he acquired a thorough and practical education in the common branches. As a youth he found employment in the Cokato creamery and later became assistant postmaster under A. Hammarsten. In 1904 he accepted the appointment as deputy county auditor under H. C. Brasie and in the fall of 1908 succeeded to the office of auditor, which position he continues to hold. Mr. Berg's conduct of the office has met with general approval, as evidenced by the fact that he has been elected four consecutive terms and three of these terms without

opposition in the primary or general elections. Mr. Berg is regarded among the best informed men in the county in the laws relating to taxation, ditching, roads and elections, by which his duties as county auditor are governed and is a rapid and accurate accountant. Mr. Berg is a member of the Baptist church. He is naturally gifted in music and shows a willingness at all times to use his talent by assisting in choral work in the churches and in directing the village band. Mr. Berg was married July 23, 1904, to Helen Bergstrom, daughter of Lars and Maria (Fryckstrom) Bergstrom, pioneers of Cokato. Mr. and Mrs. Berg are the parents of three children, Lillian, born December 29, 1906; Doris, born November 21, 1908; Carl, born October 19, 1912.

**Oscar J. Peterson.** Wright county registrar of deeds, was born August 7, 1872, in Minneapolis, son of John M. and Lizzie Peterson. About 1875 Oscar came with his parents to Wright county, where they located a farm in Middleville township and here he attended the county school. Later he took a business course at the Gustavus Adolphus College at St. Peter, Minn. Then he engaged as a clerk in a mercantile business at Annandale and later at Cokato, continuing in this work for about five years. In 1897 and 1898 he was deputy for Edward M. Nagel, registrar of deeds. Next he engaged in the real estate and machine business until the fall of 1909 when he was elected registrar of deeds for Wright county, which office he has held ever since. Mr. Peterson belongs to the Knight of Pythias, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and Modern Woodmen of America. He is also a member of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Peterson was married November 18, 1912, to Alma Anderson.

**Henry Spindler**, judge of probate, of Wright county, was born in Waconia, Carver county, Minnesota, December 5, 1871, son of Gottlieb and Regula (Herman) Spindler, natives respectively of Germany and Switzerland. Gottlieb Spindler died in November, 1905, and his wife still lives in Buffalo. Henry Spindler received his early education in the public schools of Waconia, later attending the high school. He engaged in teaching for about three years in the district and public schools of McLeod county. In the fall of 1896 he entered the University of Minnesota, graduating from the law department in 1898. He then came to Wright county and located at Annandale, where he opened an office and began practicing law. He remained there until 1906, when he was elected judge of probate. He has been re-elected every term since and is the present incumbent. Mr. Spindler is a member of the Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F. He was married, April 30, 1908, to Emma Wolff, who is his deputy.

**Orson C. Chamberlin**, treasurer of Wright county, was born in Monticello, October 3, 1873, and is thus one of the few native-born sons who have held county office here. He was reared in



the home of his parents, Emmons and Almeda (Foster) Chamberlin, received a good education in the district schools, and as he grew to manhood farmed on his father's old place and clerked in a store. In 1903 he and J. H. Huston engaged in the hardware business at Monticello. In 1906 the partnership was dissolved, and Mr. Chamberlin continued the business alone. In 1907 he sold out, and came to Buffalo as deputy treasurer under A. G. Johnson. Here his good cheer and obliging temperament won the sincere regard of all with whom he came in contact, and in 1908 when he came before the people as candidate for county treasurer he was elected by a substantial majority. He took office January 1, 1909, and has since continued to serve, with such credit to himself and with such satisfaction to his fellow citizens that in the fall of 1914 he was reelected for four years more. The routine work of the office is well attended to, and those who transact business there are made to feel that Mr. Chamberlin competently fills the position. As a fraternity man, Mr. Chamberlin has assumed state-wide connections, and the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Elks and the Woodmen count him as a valued member. He belongs to Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, Buffalo, and Paran Encampment, No. 42, Montrose, both of the I. O. O. F.; to Nelson Lodge, No. 135, A. F. & A. M., Buffalo; Galilee Chapter, Lodge No. 53, O. E. S., and Buffalo Chapter, No. 71, R. A. M., of Buffalo; Minneapolis Consistory, No. 2, A. & A. S. R. S. J.; St. Cloud Lodge, No. 516, B. P. O. E., of St. Cloud; and Monticello Camp, No. 3168, M. W. A., of Monticello, as well as to minor orders. Mr. Chamberlin was married, October 22, 1902, to Elma E. Barnett, of Monticello, daughter of W. P. Barnett, a pioneer, and they have two bright sons, Glen and Raymond.

**George Parsons Dodd**, a leading citizen of Buffalo, is widely known as an authority on criminology. The best years of his life have been spent in maintaining the law and order of the state, and his influence on the penal institutions of Minnesota has been marked. Mr. Dodd was born in Quebec, Canada, October 20, 1848, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dodd, the pioneers. At the age of seven he was taken to what is now Ottawa, Canada, and in 1864 he came with the rest of the family to Chatham township, this county. He spent his young manhood on the farm, and living near Buffalo, he early became identified with affairs in that village. While scarcely more than a boy he assisted in putting up the first frame house to be erected in the western part of the present village. It was in 1876 that he went to the state prison, at Stillwater, as guard. His work attracted attention, and he was soon made the prison storekeeper. In all he spent twelve years at the prison, and during that time commended himself to the state authorities for his efficient service, good judgment, bravery and justice. In a period when modern prison



reform had not become generally popular he assisted in inaugurating many reforms and became a valued member of the executive force of the prison. He was influential in the starting of the "Prison Mirror," in 1887, the paper being the only one of its kind in the world at that time. The influence of the paper has been widely extended, and has done much toward cheering the prisoners while confined and giving them a new start in life when released. In the same year he assisted in organizing the prison choir, which has also been an important influence in improving the discipline and bettering the lives of the inmates. At the great prison fire of January 24, 1884, he proved his heroism in a way that will live forever in the annals of the state, and which saved Minnesota the blot of having dozens of its wards perish while in custody. At the time of the fire he was in charge of the prison fire department. The thermometer stood at twenty-seven below zero, and Mr. Dodd fought the fire standing in the frigid water. He went to the female department, where his wife was in charge, and helped her to get the women prisoners into the cell department. At this time the fire was at its height, and word came that thirty-eight prisoners were cut off on the fifth floor. Plunging through smoke, over slippery floors, at the risk of his life, Mr. Dodd reached the corridor and personally released the prisoners, taking them all to a place of safety. On his way from his wife's department, to release these men, Mr. Dodd was cut off by the flames, and in jumping over the banisters he received injuries from which he has never recovered. The papers of the state joined in their praise of his valor. From Stillwater, in 1896, Mr. Dodd went to the Minneapolis Municipal Work House, where he remained until 1899. In 1901 he returned to Buffalo, and became deputy sheriff under Angus H. Grant, a position he still retains. He is an able, brave, shrewd and conscientious officer, and has done most efficient work. From April, 1908, to April, 1914, he was village marshal of Buffalo, and in that capacity gave general satisfaction. Mr. Dodd is a member of Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F., of Buffalo. He was married, June 27, 1883, to Anna L. Dowling, daughter of Christopher and Martha (Miller) Dowling, natives of Ireland, who were brought to Canada as children. Christopher Dowling was a mason by trade. He died at the age of eighty-three and his wife at the age of eighty-two. Mr. and Mrs. Dodd have two children, John H. and Florence Leona, both at home. Before her marriage, and until the fire of January 24, 1884, Mrs. Dodd was matron at the Stillwater State Prison under Warden J. A. Reed, and in this capacity won general praise. She has been an able helpmeet of her husband's in all his ventures.

**Arthur C. Heath** was born at McKeesport, Pa., January 12, 1857. He was educated at Colgate University, taking the de-





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LITTLE CROW

gree of A. B. in 1879. In 1880 he came to Wright county, teaching three years at Monticello and one year at Buffalo. For seven years he served in the county auditor's office, first as deputy and afterward as auditor. After spending two years in Seattle he returned to Buffalo in 1895, and began the work of abstracting the records of land titles. Having in 1898 completed his abstract books, he engaged in the business of making abstracts of title. He was married October 24, 1898, to Mrs. Ella Dean, who died September 25, 1899. He was again married, June 30, 1903, to Stella M. Jacobs. From this union have been born three children: Arthur C. Heath, Jr., Harold E. Heath and Eleanor J. Heath.

## CHAPTER IX.

### THE SIOUX UPRISING.

**Indians Take Revenge for the Wrongs of the Centuries—Summary of the Tragedy—Wright County Terrified by Reports—Big Woods Deserted—Preparations for Defense at River Points—The Dustin Massacre—Indian Agent Takes His Own Life—An Indian Killed—Indians Pursued—Death of Little Crow.**

The Sioux outbreak was the culmination of a long series of injustices toward the Indians on the part of the whites. Debauched, defrauded, degraded; forced by fear of the strength of the whites, and by misrepresentations, to dispose of their lands; herded together on reservations; treated by the whites as half-witted children, cheated by the traders and starved by the stupidity of high officials at Washington, who, in addition to the provisions of already-unjust treaties, imposed additional conditions; the Indians, knowing the revenge that the whites would take for a murder already committed by some renegade braves, arose in their might, and for a time nearly succeeded in regaining their hereditary holdings.

The immediate cause of the outbreak, while it followed trouble at the reservation over deferred payments, occurred on August 17, 1862.

The Rice Creek Indians were deserters from the bands to which they originally belonged, because they were discontented with conditions, and had grievances against their chiefs or others of their fellow-clansmen. They were, too, malecontents generally. They did not like their own people, they did not like the whites. A few were good hunters and trappers, though none of them were farmers. They depended almost altogether for provisions upon their success in hunting and fishing. Detachments from the band were constantly in the Big Woods engaged in hunting.



Four of this band, on a trip to Acton township, August 17, 1862, found a hen's nest in the corner of a settler's fence, and, against the remonstrance of his companions, one of them took the eggs. This resulted in a quarrel over the question of bravery, after which the four started out in angry mood to show how brave they were. They accordingly proceeded to settlers' homes and shot and killed three white men and two women, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson Jones, Howard Baker, Viranus Webster and Clara D. Wilson. Realizing that these murders would cause their arrest and severe punishment, they rapidly proceeded to Rice Creek, near the lower Sioux agency, informed their relatives, and an immediate uprising was decided upon. Little Crow was asked to lead; he at first hesitated, and then consented, saying: "Trouble is sure to come with the whites sooner or later. It may as well take place now as any time. I am with you. Let us hurry to the agency, kill the traders and take their goods."

At this date there was a great deal of bad feeling among the Indians towards, and dissatisfaction with the Federal government. Their annuity payments were long past due and they were suffering for want of sufficient food. The fact that many white men had enlisted in the Union army and gone South, had led many Indians to the belief that they could drive the whites out of the Minnesota Valley and from their former hunting grounds. This was the situation when the young Indian murderers reached their band at Rice Creek near the lower Sioux agency, where the Indians had gathered some months before to await the annuity payment.

In his "History of the Sioux War," I. V. D. Heard, an officer on General Sibley's staff, says of conditions early in 1862:

"The Indians were grievously disappointed with their bargains. They had now nearly disposed of all their land, and had received scarcely anything for it. They were 6,200 in number and their annuities when paid in full, were hardly \$15 apiece. Their sufferings from hunger were often severe, especially during the winter previous to the massacre."

**Agency Attacked—Country Devastated.** The Lower Agency was located on the Minnesota river about twelve miles above Fort Ridgley—a small frontier post with a stone barracks for the troops and frame residences for offices, but no defences. Little Crow was a prominent chief and recognized leader. He had been well treated by the Indian agents and was regarded as a friend of the whites, but on this occasion was carried away by the wild fury of the Indians. When he gave the word, the savages rushed to the agency and the slaughter began. The whites were taken unawares and were easy victims. All men were shot down; few women were killed. The stores proved such an attraction that the Indians poured into them, pillaging and looting, during which

time some few whites managed to escape across the river. Later in the day, the savages crossed the Minnesota river, scattered throughout the settlements, and began their work of murder, rapine, unspeakable outrages, burning of houses and general destruction and devastation. Men, women and children were slaughtered under the most horrible circumstances, and their bodies shockingly mutilated. For generations the white man had subjected the Indian and his family to lust, to greed, to wrongs and to avarice. Now the smouldering fires had broken loose. The unsuspecting settlers were taken completely by surprise, and made no resistance; indeed, very few had firearms, and were not even accustomed to using them. Though hundreds of whites were slain that day, not a single Indian was killed. In some localities, the whites, learning of the uprising, hurriedly assembled together, naturally thinking numbers would add to their safety, and started for Fort Ridgley.

In a German settlement in western Renville county, twenty-five families had thus gathered and were waiting for neighbors to join them, when a war party of Shakopee's band suddenly appeared, surrounded them, and slaughtered 100 men, women and children within an area of two acres. At a war dance that evening, Chief Shakopee exultingly declared that he had tomahawked so many whites that day that his arm was lame.

Down the Minnesota river on both sides below Fort Ridgley as far as New Ulm, and up the river to Yellow Medicine, the bloody slaughter extended that day. The fiendish butcheries and horrible killings beggar description. Here is one or many like instances: Cut Nose, a savage of savages, with half a dozen other Sioux, overtook a number of whites in wagons. He sprang into one of the vehicles in which were eleven women and children and tomahawked every one of them, yelling in fiendish delight as his weapons went crashing through the skulls of the helpless victims. Twenty-five whites were killed at this point. Settlers were slain from near the Iowa line in Jackson county, as far north as Breckenridge, including Glencoe, Hutchinson, Forest City, Manannah and other places. Fourteen were killed at White Lake, Kandiyohi county. The much greater number of whites were slaughtered, however, within the reservations, and in Renville and Brown counties. During the first week, it is estimated that over 600 whites were killed and nearly 200 women and children taken captive. Only one man escaped death—George Spencer, wounded at the Lower Agency, was saved by a friendly Indian, and became a prisoner.

The Whites at the Yellow Medicine Agency above the Lower Agency, to the number of sixty-two, among them the family of Indian Agent Galbraith, escaped by the aid of John Otherday, a friendly Indian.

When the news of the outbreak reached Fort Ridgley, Captain John S. Marsh, with forty-six of his men of Company B, Fifth Minnesota, started for the Lower Agency. He was ambushed at Redwood Ferry, twenty-four of his men were killed, and he himself was drowned in attempting to cross the river. The survivors of his command hid in the thickets and worked their way back to the fort at night.

**Fort Ridgley Attacked Twice.** The Indians attacked Fort Ridgley on the twentieth and again on the twenty-second of August, the latter day with 800 warriors. The force in the fort numbered 180 men, commanded by Lieutenant T. J. Sheehan. A small battery under Sergeant John Jones, of the regular army, did effective service. There were 300 refugees in the fort. After seven hours' fighting, the Indians retired. Had they charged they could have captured the fort, but Indians do not fight in that manner. The saving of Ridgley was the salvation of the country below, as its capture would have enabled the Indians to sweep the valley. The loss of the garrison was three killed and twelve wounded.

The most momentous engagements of the Indian war were the attacks upon New Ulm, as the fate of more than 1,500 people was at stake. The Sioux first assaulted it on the day following the outbreak, but were driven off. That night Judge C. E. Flandrau, of the Supreme court, arrived with 125 men, and the next day 50 arrived from Mankato. Judge Flandrau was chosen to command. On August 23 the Indians, some 500 strong, again attacked the little city and surrounded it, apparently determined to capture it. The battle lasted five or six hours. The Indians set fire to the houses to the windward, and the flames swept towards the center of the city, where the inhabitants had barricaded themselves, and complete destruction seemed inevitable. The whites, under Flandrau, charged the Indians and drove them half a mile. They then set fire to and burned all the houses on the outskirts in which the Indians were taking shelter. In all, 190 structures were destroyed. Towards evening the Indians retired. Thirty-six whites were killed, including ten slain in a reconnaissance on the nineteenth. Seventy to eighty were wounded.

Owing to a shortage of provisions and ammunition, the city was evacuated on August 25. The sick and wounded and women and children were loaded into 153 wagons and started for Mankato. No more pathetic sight was ever witnessed on this continent than this long procession of 1,500 people forced to leave their homes and flee from a relentless foe, unless it be the pathetic picture, seen so many times on this continent, of the Indians being driven from the lands of their ancestors by the no less relentless whites.

**Situation in the Minnesota Valley.** Heard's history thus vividly portrays conditions in the Minnesota Valley at this period:

"Shakopee, Belle Plaine and Henderson were filled with fugitives. Guards patrolled the outskirts, and attacks were constantly apprehended. Oxen were killed in the streets, and the meat, hastily prepared, was cooked over fires on the ground. The grist mills were surrendered by their owners to the public and kept in constant motion to allay the demand for food. All thought of property was abandoned. Safety of life prevailed over every other consideration. Poverty stared in the face those who had been affluent, but they thought little of that. Women were to be seen in the street hanging on each other's necks, telling of their mutual losses, and the little terror-stricken children, surviving remnants of once happy homes, crying piteously around their knees. The houses and stables were all occupied by people, and hundreds of fugitives had no covering or shelter but the canopy of heaven."

August 26, Lieut.-Gov. Ignatius Donnelly, writing to Gov. Alexander Ramsey, from St. Peter, said:

"You can hardly conceive the panic existing along the valley. In Belle Plaine I found 60 people crowded. In this place leading citizens assure me that there are between 3,000 and 4,000 refugees. On the road between New Ulm and Mankato are over 2,000; Mankato is also crowded. The people here are in a state of panic. They fear to see our forces leave. Although we may agree that much of this dread is without foundation, nevertheless it is producing disastrous consequences to the state. The people will continue to pour down the valley, carrying consternation wherever they go, their property in the meantime abandoned and going to ruin."

**Minnesota Aroused—Troops Dispatched.** When William J. Sturgis, bearer of dispatches from Fort Ridgley to Governor Ramsey, reached him at Fort Snelling on the afternoon of August 19, the government at once placed ex-Governor Henry H. Sibley, with the rank of colonel, in command of the forces to operate against the Indians. Just at this time, in response to President Lincoln's call for 600,000 volunteers, there was a great rush of Minnesotans to Fort Snelling, so that there was no lack of men, but there was an almost entire want of arms and equipment. This caused some delay, but Colonel Sibley reached St. Peter on the twenty-second. Here he was delayed until the twenty-sixth and reached Fort Ridgley August 28. A company of his cavalry arrived at the fort the day previous, to the great joy of garrison and refugee settlers.

**Birch Coulie Disaster.** August 31, General Sibley, then encamped at Fort Ridgley with his entire command, dispatched a force of some 150 men, under the command of Maj. Joseph R.



Brown, to the Lower Agency, with instructions to bury the dead of Captain Marsh's command and the remains of all settlers found. No signs of Indians were seen at the agency, which they visited on September 1. That evening they encamped near Birch Coulie, about 200 yards from the timber. This was a fatal mistake, as subsequent events proved. At early dawn the Sioux, who had surrounded the camp, were discovered by a sentinel, who fired. Instantly there came a deadly roar from hundreds of Indian guns all around the camp. The soldiers sprang to their feet, and in a few minutes thirty were shot down. Thereafter all hugged the ground. The horses to the number of 87 were soon killed, and furnished a slight protection to the men, who dug pits with spades and bayonets. General Sibley sent a force of 240 men to their relief, and on the same day followed with his entire command. On the forenoon of September 3, they reached the Coulie and the Indians retreated. Twenty-eight whites were killed and sixty wounded. The condition of the wounded and indeed the entire force was terrible. They had been some forty hours without water, under a hot sun, surrounded by bloodthirsty, howling savages. The dead were buried and the wounded taken to Fort Ridgley.

**In Northwestern Settlements.** After the battle of Birch Coulie, many small war parties of Indians started for the settlements to the Northwest, burning houses, killing settlers and spreading terror throughout that region. There were minor battles at Forest City, Acton, Hutchinson and other places. Stockades were built at various points. The wife and two children of a settler, a mile from Richmond, were killed on September 22. Paynesville was abandoned and all but two houses burned. The most severe fighting with the Indians in the northwestern settlements was at Forest City, Acton and Hutchinson, on September 3 and 4. Prior to the battle at Birch Coulie, Little Crow, with 110 warriors, started on a raid to the Big Woods country. They encountered a company of some 60 whites under Captain Strout, between Glencoe and Acton, and a furious fight ensued, Strout's force finally reaching Hutchinson, with a loss of five killed and seventeen wounded. Next day Hutchinson and Forest City, where stockades had been erected, were attacked, but the Indians finally retired without much loss on either side, the Indians, however, burning many houses, driving off horses and cattle, and carrying away a great deal of personal property.

Twenty-two whites were killed in Kandiyohi and Swift counties by war parties of Sioux. Unimportant attacks were made upon Fort Abercrombie on September 3, 6, 26 and 29, in which a few whites were killed.

**Anxiety as to Chippewas.** There was great anxiety as to the Chippewas. Rumors were rife that Hole-in-the-Day, the head

chief, had smoked the pipe of peace with his hereditary enemies, the Sioux, and would join them in a war against the whites. There was good ground for these apprehensions, but by wise council and advice, Hole-in-the-Day and his Chippewas remained passive.

**Want of Supplies Delays Movements.** General Sibley was greatly delayed in his movements against the Indians by insufficiency of supplies, want of cavalry and proper supply trains. Early in September he moved forward and on September 23, at Wood Lake, engaged in a spirited battle with 500 Indians, defeating them with considerable loss. On the twenty-sixth, General Sibley moved forward to the Indian camps. Little Crow and his followers had hastily retreated after the battle at Wood Lake and left the state. Several bands of friendly Indians remained and through their action in guarding the captives they were saved and released, in all 91 whites and 150 half-breeds. The women of the latter had been subjected to the same indignities as the white women.

General Sibley proceeded to arrest all Indians suspected of murder, abuse of women and other outrages. Eventually 425 were tried by a military commission, 303 being sentenced to death and 18 to imprisonment. President Lincoln commuted the sentences of all but 39. One of the 39 proved an alibi and was released. Thirty-eight were hanged at Mankato December 26, 1862.

**Sioux Driven from State.** The Battle of Wood Lake ended the campaign against the Sioux for that year. Small war parties occasionally raided the settlements, creating "scares" and excitement, but the main body of Indians left the state for Dakota. Little Crow and a son returned in 1863, and on July 3 was killed near Hutchinson by a farmer named Nathan Lamson. In 1863 and 1864 expeditions against the Indians drove them across the Missouri river, defeating them in several battles. Thus Minnesota was forever freed from danger from the Sioux.

In November, 1862, three months after the outbreak, Indian Agent Thomas J. Galbraith prepared a statement giving the number of whites killed as 738. Historians Heard and Flandrau placed the killed at over 1,000.

Wright county suffered severely during the uprising, for, though the Indians themselves brought harm to but one family, the people were swept by a panic of fright that left its effect for many years thereafter.

August 20, 1862, soon after the departure of Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, for Ft. Snelling, word came of the terrible revenge that was being taken by the defrauded Sioux at Acton, Yellow Medicine and elsewhere.

Added to the authentic reports of murders came rumors of

widespread pillage, rapine and massacre. Every settler believed that the region just to the west of him was swarming with the infuriated red warriors. The people along the Mississippi and Crow rivers were told that Waverly had been burned and that Buffalo was running red with blood. In the central part of the county, the western portions were supposed to be the scenes of carnage and ruin, while the people in these western portions in turn received news that every family in Meeker county had been wiped out.

Then the exodus began. From every direction the pioneers started for St. Paul, Minneapolis, Ft. Snelling and St. Anthony, leaving their crops and sometimes their live stock, and taking only such household effects as could be hastily gathered together. In the face of impending and horrible death, material possessions were considered of little importance.

In a short time scarcely a family was left in the Big Woods. Here and there a man braver than the rest stayed behind his wife and children, but such men spent their time in scouting in the timbers, going for days at a time without food, often not daring to look after their stock or crops, and sometimes afraid even to go near their own cabins.

The Indian scare in Wright county was greater than in any other portion of the state except in parts of Hennepin and Carver counties—in fact, much worse than it was in the regions where hundreds of people were killed. In the Big Woods there was panic, uncurbed, and the words and admonitions of a few cooler and wiser citizens availed nothing. The clearings about the cabins were small; unlike the people who lived in the prairie country, the pioneer in the Big Woods could command a view of the landscape for only a few rods from his home. The Indians, had they so desired, could have crept upon the isolated claims entirely unseen until making their last dash from the dark forests. The placing of sufficient guards around each home to prevent the Indians from approaching unawares was out of the question, and the people could think of nothing but flight.

During the first maddened rush, measures were taken to stay the throng at Buffalo, but without avail. For a few days similar attempts in other places were no more successful. But after a while reason asserted itself, and stands were made at Monticello, Clearwater and Rockford. Stockades were erected at various points and an effort made to accommodate all who desired to find shelter. Every shop, house, store, shed and barn was filled with families from the western part of the county. Military law was established, and the men and boys took their turn as guards. The state sent up some ammunition, and some muskets, which at the time were received as a welcome protection, but whose clumsy proportions were later a source of much amusement.

In time the excitement subsided, a sense of security asserted itself, and people went back to the places they had deserted. Many, however, had left permanently. Probably fully a third of the entire population never again came to the county. Some went to their former homes in the older states, some settled in the cities in this state, some took up pioneer life in communities far removed from danger of Indian raids. When the undaunted ones who determined to remain in the county returned to their homes in the fall of 1862 their claims were the scenes of desolation. No Indians had ravaged the land, but the unharvested crops were ruined, domestic animals had run wild or disappeared, and a season of vacancy had set its hand upon the interior of the cabins.

In the spring of 1863 a few more settlers returned, some new families moved in, a period of peace ensued, and the people were looking for the close of the Civil war to again bring prosperity and happiness. Then, on June 30, came the news of the Dustin massacre. The exodus was worse than that of the previous year. In the words of one old settler:

“The whole population started at once, and it seemed for a time that nothing could stop the rush. The roads to St. Paul and Minneapolis were filled with a motley procession of human beings, interspersed with cattle, horses, sheep, swine and poultry, all in one seething mass, hurrying or actually running, all anxious to reach a place of safety. Rumors had sent them forth the previous year, this time five Indians had actually been seen, murder had actually been committed, and thousands of persons were in flight.”

In a few days reason returned. The exodus was again stopped at Monticello, Clearwater and Rockford, forts and stockades were erected in various places, and preparations for defense took the place of fleeing terror. But as before, the people returned to their cabins to find their crops ruined, and their prospects for a future happy and prosperous home blasted. Facing a hard winter with no provisions, many were forced to leave the county forever.

And thus, depopulated first by the grasshopper ravages of 1856-57, next by the financial inability of the pioneers to purchase their claims when the land was put in the market in 1859, and finally by the Indian scare and its consequent desolation, Wright county and its widely separated families, awaited the return of the soldiers and the dawn of prosperity.

**The Dustin Massacre.** Four members of a Wright county family fell victims of the fury of the Sioux during the Indian uprising, and the story will ever live in the annals of Wright county events. So long as an old settler remains the tale will be told by evening firesides, and to younger generations for decades to come it will typify the dangers which their forebears braved



in order that Wright county might be reclaimed from the wilderness.

Among the early settlers of Marysville were the members of the Dustin family, who arrived in 1857. In the household were Mrs. Jennette Dustin, a widow, and six children, Amos, Nathan M., Timothy, Dallas, Mrs. Ammon D. Kingsley and Belle. They established their home in section 24, township 119, range 26, and experienced the usual vicissitudes of pioneer life. They were friendly with the Indians, and did considerable trading with the braves of Medicine Bottle's band, who in 1858 or 1859 spent nearly all the winter near them on the north fork of the Crow river.

In 1863, the Dustins determined to change their location. Accordingly they sold their farm to David Beatle, and the sons went to Moores' prairie, now Stockholm, and took a claim in the southern part of the town near Collinwood. Amos then went back to Marysville after the rest of the family.

June 29, the party set out for their new home. They had a yoke of oxen, a wagon, and the household goods, and on top of the load were seated Mrs. Jennette Dustin, aged fifty-four years, her son, Amos Dustin, aged about thirty, his wife, Mrs. Kate Miller Dustin, aged twenty-four, and their three children, Almeda, six, Robert, four, and Leon, two.

They went by way of Waverly, and about noon stopped at the home of Aaron E. Cochran, on the northwest quarter of section 2, in what is now the town of Victor. Then they traveled west on the old Moores prairie road, which ran south of Smith lake. Late in the afternoon, when they were about two and a half miles west of what is now the village of Howard Lake, and near the east end of Smith lake, they encountered five Indians, in black war paint. They had no blankets, and to the terrified family appeared to be wearing black, shiny, tight, rubber coats. It is possible that the Indians had somewhere plundered the coats, but it is more likely that their black breech clothes and their painted black bodies gave them the appearance of being clothed in rubber. They were armed with bows and arrows, war clubs and knives, but had no fire arms.

The marauders ranged along either side of the wagon, and the startled oxen ran the vehicle into a fallen tree, broke the wagon, and thus liberated, plunged into the forest. The frightened family made no effective resistance, though it is said that Amos Dustin had a loaded gun leaning against the seat in front of him.

Then the arrows began to fly. Pierced through and through, Amos Dustin fell over, insensible; horrible wounds from a war club completed the murderous work, and the man dropped dead to the bottom of the wagon, his stiffening body protecting the

daughter, Almeda, who found shelter beneath him. In the meantime others of the war party had wrought their unholy will on the old lady, whose vigorous self-defense with a cane availed nothing. They cut off her hands, her nose and her lips, tore out her heart and flourished it as a trophy, then shot her quivering body full of arrows. The frightened shriek of Robert, the four-years-old boy, had been stifled with an arrow that passed completely through him, leaving his life blood to flow over the unconscious form of his father, and the terrified sister who lay beneath.

Mrs. Kate Dustin, with her husband and little boy dead, and with what was once her mother-in-law a shapeless horror, shrieked aloud her terror, and an arrow pierced her back, the head projecting about half an inch below her breast bone, where it remained. Another arrow penetrated her shoulder. Then she was taken from the wagon and severely beaten.

The Indians having for a time satisfied their blood-lust, tossed Leon, aged two, into a thicket, and started plundering the wagon. They took the bed clothing, provisions, trinkets and a bed tick, which they first emptied of feathers. Then they departed.

Sustained by that never-daunted courage of the pioneer mother, Mrs. Kate Dustin pulled her blood-stained daughter from under the body of Amos Dustin, picked up her baby from the thicket, and started back toward Cochran's. Sorely wounded and bruised, an arrow still piercing her body, blinded by blood and mosquitoes, intense agony shaking her frame, she stumbled on, carrying one child part of the time and guiding the other. In the gathering darkness she lost the road, and after wandering about nearly till sunrise, she committed her children to the care of Heaven and lay down to die.

The oxen returned to Cochran's before nightfall. Supposing, as he afterward said, that the oxen had been turned out to feed and had run away, Cochran paid little attention to the matter. At Waverly, the next morning, he happened to mention the incident to Henry Lammers and to A. D. Kingsley, the latter of whom was married to one of the Dustin daughters.

As the hours passed it was suggested that an investigation be made. The two men accordingly took dinner with Cochran, and about 2 o'clock in the afternoon started out on their search for the Dustins. The idea of Indians had been suggested, and the men proceeded cautiously.

In the meantime the suffering Mrs. Dustin, having with the sunrise partly regained consciousness, lay sweltering in the heat, the prey to such agony of mind and body as few people ever experience.

The Indians, possibly, were still in the neighborhood. About a mile west of what is now the village of Howard Lake, the attention of the three men was attracted to an open space under a

large oak, where the bent grass, still springing to an upright position, apparently showed that several persons had recently been sitting on the ground with their back to the trunk. Cochran interpreted this to mean that the Indians had just passed, the others suggested that hunters or travelers might have been there, or that some wild animal might have taken a nap there. A few minutes later, the men discovered in the rain-washed sand of the road what they believed to be the track of a moccasined foot.

There the three stood a short time in silence, fearing that from each thicket an unseen rifle might be pointed at their hearts. While thus they halted, there came a low moaning sob to their ears. The men were inclined to believe that it was a sound made by the Indians to decoy them into the bushes that surrounded a neighboring thicket. Cochran was convinced that the wail was a genuine voice of distress, and cautiously advanced toward the meadow. The other two, after going up the road a few rods and again listening, came to the same conclusion, and joined Cochran in his quest. Soon they sighted the two Dustin children running about in the tall grass a few rods from the timber. The suspicion arose that the Indians had placed the youngsters there as a decoy. But after another cautious wait, no Indians appearing, the men started toward the children.

On their wary way around the meadow, Mr. Cochran encountered the almost unconscious form of Mrs. Kate Dustin. She was unable to move, and could do no more than gasp: "They are all killed in the wagon by the Indians." Cochran and Lammers carried her to the roadside, and as soon as Kingsley could get his wagon and oxen, she and the children were taken to Cochran's home, where she received the tenderest care until her death on the morning of July 3.

As soon as Mrs. Dustin was cared for, a general alarm was sent out. One man was sent to Watertown. Another went to Rockford to give the alarm and secure the services of a physician. Aaron E. Cochran and A. G. Sexton started for Moores' Prairie by way of Cokato Mills, to notify the settlers that the Indians were on the war path in the Big Woods. One of the first men to hear of the affair was D. C. Kreidler, whose account of the massacre appears in this work in the chapter entitled "Incidents and Events."

The messenger reached Rockford at midnight, and at sunrise the party was ready to start for Smith Lake. An old settler has said that in this party were: John Knights, G. F. Ames, Dr. J. S. Richardson, John Woodward, Miner W. Shultes, Wesley Powers, Jason Edgar, J. R. Ames, N. D. Sperry, William Rutherford, Martin Bisky, Sr., Moses Ripley and others. At Waverly they met the people from Watertown. On arriving at the place of the massacre the men placed the dead bodies in rudely con-

structed caskets, and laid them to rest at Waverly. Mrs. Kate Dustin was later buried beside the others.

G. F. Ames went to Moores' Prairie and assisted in moving the settlers to Rockford. Then began the frightened rush that left that part of the county deserted for many months.

The identity of the slayers was never known. It was evident that a number of Indians had camped for several days at a spot about three-quarters of a mile south of where the massacre took place. The settlers decided that there were fourteen in the band. No sooner had this number been decided upon, than stories of fourteen Indians having been seen began to come from various localities. Of the five Indians who had attacked the Dustins, one had not participated in the orgie, but had appeared to be a chief. The dread name of Little Crow flew from lip to lip, and there are many who still believe that Little Crow was present at this massacre. His band is declared by several historians to have been not far from this general vicinity about the time that the crime was committed. But there are some who maintain that Little Crow was far away when the Dustins were killed. Others have declared the guilty chief was Medicine Bottle, and have purported to give his exact route after leaving this county. As a matter of fact, several marauding bands were still at large; the dying, half-crazed woman and the terrified children could give no adequate description of the five painted savages who descended upon them, and any attempt to fix the responsibility or to tell whence the Indians came or where they went is largely in the realm of speculation.

The little boy and little girl who escaped the massacre became respected citizens of Minneapolis. Other members of the family were widely scattered, some remaining in Wright county and some going elsewhere.

**Indian Agent Takes Own Life.** In relating his experience as a government surveyor in Minnesota for the Minnesota Historical Society, Nathan Butler told of the following incident:

"In 1862, I hired out with George B. Wright and Isaac A. Banker to go on a survey on Pine river, north of where Brainerd now is. The night we camped opposite Clearwater we heard that the Indians had killed Jones and Baker at Acton in the west part of Meeker county. Between Sauk Rapids and Watab we met the Ojibway Indian Agent, Walker, with his family leaving the country. He left his wife at St. Cloud, telling her he was going out on business. As he did not return, she secured a conveyance at the stage office and went to St. Anthony Falls, which was their home. Mr. Walker had not been heard from there. He was found dead opposite Monticello, with a bullet hole through his head. His saddle horse was found grazing near by, with his saddle on. Walker had gone onto the ferry boat, cast off the



lashings, and ferried himself across the Mississippi river. The ferryman hailed him and asked him to return, promising that he would set him over, but he refused, saying that there were three hundred Indians after him and he was afraid of them. He had evidently become insane and therefore shot himself."

**An Indian Killed.** One Indian is believed to have been killed in Wright county during the Sioux uprising. Small bands probably passed through the county in addition to the one which murdered the Dustins, but they kept to the trails and did not burn the cabins or devastate the crops, and with one or two exceptions had no encounters with the scouts or settlers.

After the Dustin massacre, troops were scattered throughout this region. Sixteen members of Company I, Eighth Volunteer Infantry, were stationed at the Holmes house in Albion township, with Andrew Hart as scout and guide. One morning in the latter part of July, the Holmes brothers and all but two of the soldiers started for Monticello, where a dance was to be held. After they were gone, Mr. Hart set out on an expedition along the old Indian trail to Lake Swartout. This trail was much used as a main route of travel. After reaching the outlet of the lake, Hart started hunting for bee trees. Then a flock of ducks alighted in the lake, and Hart fired at them, killing two from a shelter he had found among some ridges of sand. After reloading his gun and while waiting for the ducks to float to shore, a noise attracted his attention, and looking back along the trail he saw three Indians approaching, a few rods distant. From his concealed position, he took deliberate aim with his double-barreled gun, and pulled the trigger of the rifle barrel. But the cap alone exploded. Then he pulled the trigger of the other barrel, which he had loaded with buckshot, and, according to Hart's version of the affair, the foremost Indian fell dead. The other two Indians fired at Hart, but he was already fleeing in a zig-zag course toward a group of trees in the middle of a meadow. There he could command the approach on all sides. An hour later, Hart ventured forth, and after reaching the Holmes house, where two of the soldiers were waiting, he sent one of them after the Holmes brothers and the other fourteen soldiers. About this time five scouts arrived from Stearns county. They stated that the Indians were accused of stealing two horses and a colt near Fair Haven, from which place the scouts had followed the trail.

Soon after they had related their story, shots and the jingle of cow bells were heard a mile south, evidently on the old Indian trail which there had a southwestwardly course. Hart proposed that, with their now augmented forces, they follow the Indians at once, but the scouts from Fair Haven were reluctant about doing so. So Hart, with several soldiers, started out along the trail. After going about a mile, they came to a steer which the

Indians had evidently killed. Quite a little meat had been removed. Hart and his men then returned to the house, and he and one of the Holmes brothers went to Kingston to secure the aid of the cavalry.

The next morning the sixteen soldiers stationed at the Holmes house, the five from Fair Haven, and other scouts started out about sunrise, came upon the Indians' camp, and finally, in the present township of Cokato, discovered the two Indians at rest under a tree, while their horses were feeding in a small meadow. Over seventeen shots were fired at the Indians from ambush at short range, but none took effect, and the red men jumped on their horses and escaped through the woods, leaving behind several articles of dress, gun and ammunition, and a saddle and bridle.

In the meantime the cavalry from Kingston had started out at sunrise in the hope of intercepting the Indians at the point where the trail left the timbers for the prairies, near Rice City, now Darwin. But the horsemen were too late, so they followed the red men closely to Foot lake, near Willmar, where the Sioux abandoned their horses and escaped through a marsh. Something like forty men, fully armed and prepared, had been in pursuit of two Sioux and had allowed them to escape.

The body of the Indian which Hart believed he killed was never found. Some of the scouts suggested that the Indians had concealed the body in the marsh, while others believed that Hart in his excitement had overestimated the deadliness of his charge of buckshot.

**Indians Pursued.** "Indians were seen in Silver Creek, in July, 1863. Col. J. S. Locke declared he saw six one evening while looking after his cows near Sanborn Prairie. These Indians are believed to be the same ones who stole two horses belonging to Henry Ferguson. The trail was taken up by the citizens. Later the soldiers followed the band as far as Swede Grove, in Meeker county, where the horses were recovered after a fight with the Indians, in which Capt. John S. Cady, of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, was killed."

Such is the story told by D. R. Farnham. It is probable that these Indians seen in Wright county were members of Little Crow's immediate band. There has existed a conflict of testimony as to which raids Little Crow took part in personally, and also as to the exact identification of the Indians composing the various wandering bands that were marauding throughout this part of the state in 1862 and 1863. As before stated, there has always been considerable doubt cast upon the supposition that Little Crow was present at the Dustin massacre. So great was the terror this leader inspired, and so feverish was the public

imagination, that he was often reported as being seen in widely different places at the same time.

"Minnesota in Three Centuries," however, credits Little Crow with the Wright county raids in the following words: "In June, 1863, Little Crow's band that recognized his authority, including his four wives and his children, did not number more than fifty persons. In the first part of the month, he with fifteen men and one woman, set out on a raid in Minnesota. Two of his warriors were his sons, Wo-wi-nah-pa or the Appearing One, a boy of sixteen years, and his son-in-law, Hinkpa (or Inkpa) or The End. Below the Sheyenne river the party separated, eight warriors and the woman going northward, and seven men proceeding southeasterly into Meeker county. June 29, they murdered the Dustin family, as far east as Wright county. June 11, three of them shot and killed Capt. John S. Cady, of the Eighth Regiment, near Lake Elizabeth, in Kandiyohi county. July 1, Hinkpa the chief's son-in-law, killed James McGannon, a settler, between Kingston and Fairview, in Meeker county, stripped the body and gave the coat to his father-in-law. Two days later, or in the evening of July 3, in a berry patch, west of Hutchinson, Little Crow was shot and killed by a settler named Nathan Lamson."

**Beebe Island Encampment.** In August, 1862, the news reached Rockford of the Indian outbreak and massacre of the Lake Shetek settlers.

The whole countryside became panic stricken, the people, not knowing what to do or where to go for safety. The word soon became prevalent that the island in Lake Beebe offered the greatest security and protection. Lake Beebe is quite a large lake about six miles north of Rockford, and there is an island in it of about four acres which, at that time, was heavily timbered. There were quite a number of settlers then living around the lake, nearly all having boats. These boats were soon pressed into service and by nightfall the island was quite a popular piece of ground, upward of 150 souls having taken refuge there, with nothing but the stars for a roof. The people had taken scarcely anything from their homes except the clothes they wore. It was mutually agreed that no fires were to be made. In the morning the men took turns and ventured back to the mainland for food, also procuring quilts and blankets, making things more comfortable for the second night.

After three days and three nights on the island, word came that the Indians were checked in their march toward civilization, and that the danger had passed, so the people returned to their homes.

July 3, 1863, the settlers of North Rockford were again thrown into a panic on account of the reported massacre of the Dustin family on the Waverly and Rockford road.

Again we sought refuge on the island in Lake Beebee. This time the settlers took the precaution to provide themselves with axes and cross-cut saws, with which they felled trees and cut them into logs to erect a fort. Of course there were no oxen nor any beasts of burden taken onto the island, so the men had to haul, carry, or roll the logs to the site of the fort. In due time the fort was erected and named "Fort Steel," after Thomas Steel, the oldest man on the island. We spent about two weeks on the island that time.

After gathering on the island they soon formed a regular military organization, with my father, Thomas Walker, as commander, and Thomas Steel and Amos Denney as second officers. Disciplinary rules and regulations were rigidly enforced. At night, each man, in his turn, was assigned to so many hours picket duty.

These pickets were placed in regularly designated positions on the shore of the island behind logs or brush, so that they could not be seen from the mainland.

It was Thomas Walker's duty to make the rounds several times during the night to see that the pickets were on duty and not asleep. On one occasion he found two of the pickets, a father and his son, had deserted their posts and were asleep in their tent. The next day the two men were courtmartialed and sentenced to be shot. However, this part of the proceedings was never carried out, the officers postponing it under one pretext and another until we disbanded. Nevertheless the incident had a very salutary effect on the discipline of all the men from that day until we disbanded.

One of the rules was that no guns were to be shot off either on or off the island except at Indians, but on one occasion a settler, George Avery, living on the south shore, who had moved to Rockford during the summer, came up to look after his crop and, finding a drove of hogs in his field, began shooting to scare the hogs. He succeeded in scaring the hogs, sure enough, but he scared the occupants of the island more than the hogs, for the people were sure that the shooting was either by Indians or at Indians, and were every minute expecting to see Indians making for the island. To make matters worse it was at a time of day when every man who could get a "leave of absence" was away on the mainland for supplies or looking after his affairs at home, so that an attack at that time, when our forces were so weakened by absentees, would have made hard fighting for the few left to hold the fort. It was a great comfort to the women and children when the men began to return to the island and tell the cause of the shooting.

A few days after this scare a detail of men was sent to Rockford for supplies and news. They were told of Little Crow's



death, and the settlers were assured that there was no further danger. Then began a regular stampede to return to our homes once more.—By John B. Walker.

## CHAPTER X.

### LAND OFFICE RECORDS.

**The Pre-emption Act—The Homestead Law—The Railroad Grant—The Townsite Act—List of Those Who Obtained the Original Patents to Land in Wright County—The Roll of Honor of the Men Who First Broke and Developed the Farms.**

The original patents to land in Wright county, upon which all subsequent deeds and transfers are based, were obtained in four ways: under the pre-emption act, under the homestead law, under the townsite act, and from the railroads. The first settlers obtained their homes under the pre-emption act, by the provisions of which they were required to make certain improvements, to live upon their land a certain length of time, and to pay \$1.25 an acre. There were certain restrictions as to the size of the claim and as to the eligibility of those who filed. Instead of paying money the settlers often paid soldiers' script which they had purchased at a discount. This script had been issued to soldiers, entitling each veteran to a certain number of acres free. Few of the soldiers ever used this script to obtain land, and thousands of these papers fell into the hands of speculators, by whom they were sold to settlers. Under the homestead act, which replaced the pre-emption act, the government issued a patent after a person had lived on an eighth or quarter section (according to location) for a certain period, and made certain improvements. Many of the people obtained their land from the railroads, who had a land grant of each alternate township along their improved rights-of-way. There was also a townsite act under which villages could be entered, platted, and lots sold.

The following transcriptions from the land office records gives the original owners of all the land pre-empted and homesteaded in Wright county. This is the roll of honor of those who dared the rigors of a pioneer country and started the first developments. The list is in the main accurate, though, through carelessness of the land office registers and their clerks, the original entries are often misspelled, and transcriptions of more or less illegible handwriting since that date have distorted some of the names in various ways. But especial efforts have been made to insure accuracy in this printed list, and the names of thousands of old pioneers will be recognized. A few of the original claimants are still living, and many families are still residing on the original claim

of their father or grandfather. For the most part, however, the original claimants moved away, on account of Indians, grasshoppers and hard times.

In the following list, where a person's farm lay in several sections, or where a second claim was later taken in another section, only the first section of the first filing is given, except in special cases, for a constant repetition of names would needlessly cumber the rolls.

**Township 118, Range 25 (Franklin).** The first claims in the Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 1—Samuel P. Spear. 5—Susanna Bauman, October 9. 8—Grace Wilson, October 31. 9—Wilford L. Wilson, October 31. 17—John Stewart, October 19. 22—William Barrett, October 6. 23—A. J. Stevenson, November 9. 31—Thomas Madden, October 17. 33—Henry Doyle, October 5. Those who filed in 1858 were: 2—M. Flakker, May 26. 7—J. W. Moore, February 18. 9—J. H. Stewart, February 22. 17—C. F. Mahler, January 23; E. Field, June 11. 19—J. Fewer, February 9. 20—T. C. Field, January 23; D. W. Ingersoll, January 27; H. Wagner, February 9; E. R. Cramer, February 22. 24—F. P. Wallis, February 20. 25—N. B. White, October 11. 27—J. Briggs, December 30. 28—A. Wickert, December 30. 29—E. S. Allen, February 27; P. Stone, October 4. 32—Eliza M. Anderson, October 29.

1859: 2—C. Stewart, July 12. 8—F. Adicks, September 6. 18—L. Kundle, May 2; L. Torinus, May 2; J. W. Benning, February 26. 22—P. Martin, September 30. 26—C. A. Wright, October 15. 30—J. Dugan, July 17. 32—H. J. McKee, November 5. 35—J. J. Wright, August 11; J. M. Waid, October 14.

1860: 1—W. McKinley, November 26; James Patten, November 26; J. Quinn, November 27. 3—W. Ziebarth, October 6; L. Matter, October 18. 4—C. Shroder, October 18; T. Strauch, November 26; F. J. Bauman, October 20. 5—F. Schwerin, October 6; J. O. Connell, November 27. 6—C. Crawshaw, March 2; Ezra Stacy, October 2. 9—F. J. Bauman, October 20. 10—J. Matter, October 18; L. Matter, October 18; G. Geiger, November 26. 12—James Finnegan, November 26. 13—F. Sutton, October 16. 14—D. White, November 21. 17—A. Voelker, January 21. 19—V. Fautsch, October 3. 21—L. Kespohl, November 27. 23—R. Sturman, August 21. 25—J. M. Depue, September 28. 26—P. Bark, November 21; J. Murphy, August 21. 28—W. Doyle, November 22. 29—E. M. Munger, October 16.

1861: 10—J. Dick, July 19.

1864: 3—F. Ziebarth, December 16. 5—John Bain, December 26. 11—S. Patton, December 26; J. B. White, December 26; J. Bernick, November 10; J. E. Ellis, December 26; J. P. Lyle, December 26. 13—L. Walter, December 26. 23—G. Robertson, December 26. 25—P. Welker, December 26. 27—J. Martin, De-

cember 26. 33—C. Walquist, November 28; S. Halgren, October 22. 35—W. A. Mara, December 26.

1865: 3—J. M. Direks, April 19. 5—J. Hartmon, January 24. 22—J. O. Kelsa, August 14. 23—Harriett Cunningham, November 9. 28—C. Mayforth, May 23. 30—M. O. Rourk, September 7. 33—J. Carlson, January 19.

1866: 15—E. D. and F. A. Atwater, March 7; J. H. Kloss, 27—J. Martin, April 16; I. Nason, April 10. 28—C. Mayforth, May 23. 29—M. Trohliet, March 5. 31—A. Noonan, April 21. 32—W. Koran, February 23.

1867: 7—J. Alley, April 9. 9—F. I. Metzger, August 20. 19—J. Probst, March 2.

1868: 2—C. Stewart, January 14; S. Patton, January 14. 4—J. Horsch, February 6; J. Derrick, February 6; J. Houser, February 6. 6—H. Marshall, February 6. 8—P. Stoltz, February 6. 9—Minnesota Land Company, April 30. 10—J. Greiger, April 29; J. Dick, July 19. 12—O. Stewart, January 14; E. Freeman, January 14; J. C. Ellis, July 1; J. P. Lyle, January 14. 14—J. Bernick, January 22; T. Bernick, January 22. 18—J. Stoltz, February 6; J. Plattner, February 6. 19—J. Dugan, June 5. 22—U. Martin, January 16; James Martin, January 16. 24—J. Drody, December 9; Margaret Robeston, December 9. 26—C. Stein, January 14. 27—J. C. Stuman, August 21. 30—M. Davis, January 1; J. Perry, January 1; O. Early, January 24; A. Spikle, February 13. 32—E. F. Hainlin, February 18; F. Algner, February 18; F. Stephens, February 18. 34—S. Peterson, January 9; J. Peterson, January 9. 35—J. C. Reihl, December 2.

1869: 6—J. Quinn, March 10. 14—M. Anderson, October 1; L. Cunningham, February 23. 19—J. Platner, January 2. 34—T. J. Sturman, February 1; S. S. Sturman, February 1; J. J. Mara, February 23.

1870: 25—F. M. Cooper, March 18. 31—A. Speckel, February 10; J. K. P. Blacksetter, July 1.

1871: 4—C. Marth, October 27; F. Strauch, October 27. 10—G. Geiger, April 6. 13—N. Peterson, June 6. 30—J. P. Baldery, February 1. 34—Isaac Nason, August 26. 35—S. Murphey, September 27.

1872: 12—J. Finnegan, August 10. 16—J. L. Dohl, May 31. 27—D. F. Justus, June 8. 31—J. Dugen, June 16.

1873: 24—J. Sutton, April 17. 28—P. Olson, March 5; Peter Church, March 5.

1874: 16—M. Farnick, January 27. 24—J. Nolon, December 9. 29—J. Menth, July 13.

1876: 5—G. E. Stacy, May 29. 25—C. Swanson, March 27.

**Township 118, Range 26 (Woodland).** The first claims in this Congressional township were taken in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 4—Thomas Gargan, October 7. 5—Jonah Davis,

October 24. 6—Pat Hays, October 19. 8—Patrick Casey, November 24. 9—Thomas Gargan, October 7. 25—John Galvin, December 9. 29—Benjamin Cole, October 15. Those that filed in 1858 were: 5—C. H. Sawyer, January 6; E. A. Crumsie, February 27. 9—John Whealen, December 9. 12—John W. Moore, February 18. 23—J. H. Chandler, February 25. 26—John Baxter, May 24. 29—W. G. Flonseca, August 13. 30—Robert Eckford, January 15. 34—William Dunn, February 16; Stephen Lambert, February 17.

1859: 2—Andrew J. Stacy, October 25. 6—John Casey, September 6. 13—Joseph A. Leiter, October 25. 20—Marcus Fosket, October 7. 22—George R. Stearns, April 14.

1860: 1—Ezra M. Stacy, October 2. 2—John Young, October 27; Thomas Young, November 27; James N. Stacy, August 18. 4—James Broderick, October 5; Patrick Clemmens, October 5. 6—Joseph Mee, September 27. 7—George Scott, October 31. 9—Miles McDermott, November 8. 10—Catharine Hinds, October 27; Miles McDermott, November 8; Nicholas V. Streeter, October 17. 11—Nicholas V. Streeter, October 17. 13—Cramer Swartout, November 26. 22—Thomas Quincannan, October 17. 24—Michael Frohlick, October 16. 28—Amos F. Blanchard, October 2.

1861: 6—J. K. Sidle, December 5. 20—John Brabee, December 6.

1865: 1—John Alley, June 28; Newton E. Harris, June 28. 11—John Alley, June 28; James Murphey, September 21. 13—Peter Weiderko, December 26. 25—Ellen Crolly, October 23; Michael Dungen, October 26. 26—Patrick O'Brien, January 4. 35—Hezekiah Alley, December 16.

1866: 1—George W. Stacy, June 28. 23—Patrick McNeily, March 17. 25—Patrick Rogers, July 12. 26—Patrick O'Brien, January 4.

1867: 35—Hezekiah Alley, June 7.

1868: 2—John Young, October 29. 10—James Hinds, December 16; Patrick Flannigan, January 28; Richard Burk, January 28; John Burk, February 19. 12—Lorana Stacy, May 26. 14—Thomas Clarke, February 14; John Kennedy, February 19. 20—Mary Jordan, February 6. 21—Thomas Jordan, February 17; Austin Devitt, February 17. 24—Patrick McNeiley, July 2; Michael Early, January 24; Thomas Craly, January 24. 25—Ellen McKierman, February 15; Patrick Rogers, February 17. 26—Patrick O'Brien, January 24; James McGraugh, January 24. 30—Robert Porter, February 17.

1869: 2—Adam Legier, January 21. 4—Patrick Connery, July 14. 6—Andrew Beck, June 5. 21—Owen Devaney, September 7; W. Brabee, August 11; Fred Doering, August 11. 24—Michael Dugan, July 17. 30—John Lauzer, February 20. 33—G. Hoag, August 20.



1870: 3—Richard Bennett, March 1. 8—Michael Derrig, December 16. 12—Joseph Harris, May 26. 15—John Keyne, March 24; Martin Boyle, March 24. 17—Mathias Lauzer, February 17. 18—James Lindsey, October 21; Headley Pannett, October 21; John Pannett, October 21. 20—Henry Ruckle, September 13; J. Joseph Brabec, September 13. 30—John Peterson, June 20; Frank Lauzer, September 13; Joseph Brabec, September 13.

1871: 2—Elisha Ferrell, February 1. 3—Patrick McKeon, October 3; Michael Clemmens, October 19. 8—William Griswold, November 14. 14—Patrick Brannon, February 5. 26—George Ray, February 1; Thomas Haverty, February 1. 28—James M. Halliday, November 14. 34—The Heirs of Peter Gratton, February 1.

1872: 8—John Casey, March 22; John Green, March 22. 14—John Powell, March 22. 28—Ewen McDonald, August 2. 32—Albert Stacher, May 17. 34—Owen Gratton, March 22.

1873: 5—John Casey, June 2. 12—Levi W. Streeter, February 5; Mary Bagley, December 22. 14—Thomas Connelly, February 5. 24—Ignatius Prelinger, February 5. 28—Joshua S. Bryant, March 17; William Eagan, January 1. 30—Joseph Monroe, August 18. 32—Silas W. Belt, January 1.

1874: 7—Cord and Fritz Prigge, July 31. 10—John Fitzpatrick, March 27. 15—Thomas Conconeon, February 4. 17—C. Wildung, March 20. 22—William J. Griffin, October 25.

1875: 7—Peter Miller, September 14. 11—Patrick Brice, June 8. 17—C. Wildung, March 20. 19—Herman Deirs, January 8; Mrs. C. Wildung, January 8; Samuel Berg, June 30. 27—F. Horn, November 3; George Ray, August 28. 31—Nils Pierson, November 26; Louis Peterson, January 6; John Magnuson, June 8; O. Olson, May 31; Johanas Peterson, May 31. 32—Louis Peterson, May 10; F. Felipakp, March 10. 33—Thomas Stackhart, June 15; Louis Johnson, September 24.

1876: 9—J. K. Cullen, February 8; John T. Sungen, May 31. 15—John Kennedy, May 8. 17—M. Derrig, November 9. 27—M. Reed, March 30; Thomas Haverty, June 15. 31—Peter Blamquist, March 8; A. G. Gustavson, December 11. 33—John S. Johnson, March 22.

1877: 17—Mary Grum, June 2. 27—George Ray, November 30; L. Conolly, August 28. 31—John Linquist, June 29. 33—O. Dahlquist, February 9; Peter Boylender, August 20.

1878: 5—John Casey, May 13. 7—John Fitzpatrick, November 26. 9—A. Berkner, April 29; A. Nee, February 18. 17—J. K. Kullen, July 16. 19—Owen J. Beal, July 24. 28—Francis M. Horn, January 1. 29—John Anderson, June 3. 33—Charles Oslund, March 14; Nils Swanson, February 1; E. Noystrom, February 1.

1879: 7—Philip Gerther, February 26. 27—John McDonald, April 18. 29—Niles Anderson, March 26.

**Township 118, Range 27 (Victor).** The first claims in this Congressional township were taken in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 22—J. S. Smith, August 29; E. S. Smith, August 29. 23—Elias Underwood, July 23. 25—Amos J. Gardner, October 23. Those that filed in 1858: 11—Thomas Mitchell, August 11. 24—Abraham Freeman, November 18. 25—John Lewis, January 19. In 1859: 13—A. V. Lobdell, February 18. 14—A. V. Lobdell, February 18.

1860: 3—M. V. Cochrane, November 24. 13—Jason B. Lobdell, September 1. 24—George Holt, November 27.

1862: 24—Marcus Fasket, February 26.

1865: 12—August Streich, June 24; C. Steich, May 23. 14—Michael Folz, April 28. 28—George Gamble, April 1. 30—George Gamble, June 1.

1868: 6—Charles S. Graves, November 12. 10—Michael Zieser, July 1. 12—August Streich, March 24; Christoph Streich, July 1. 24—Marcus Fosket. 26—David Irons, July 1. 2—Gottlieb Gess, July 15; Jacob Shaffer, July 1.

1869: 2—James Z. Cochrane, August 2; Michael Engel, June 15. 4—Noah Nilson, October 1; Peter Pearson, October 1; Peter Fritz, December 11. 6—Albert G. Pearson, April 29. 10—William Gess, December 11. 14—Francis Shanley, December 7. 15—Edwin Brewster, December 29; Sarah E. Brewster, December 29. 25—William W. Patterson, December 3. 26—Parker Cole, December 7; William Walters, February 20. 32—Ezra Baker, February 2; Aaron Baker, February 2. 34—Andrew McCormick, December 7; Alanson G. Butler, December 7.

1870: 1—J. Dunn and H. Tanner, July 13. 2—Joseph Pearson, April 27. 4—Charles Goodsell; April 27; G. Pearson, April 8. 8—John Phillips, December 19. 10—William Gess, July 11. 18—Laxley R. Wood. 24—Isaac S. Crooks, October 21; Ardell D. Pinkerton, April 26; John Q. A. Braden, January 19; William Walters, February 20.

1871: 6—William Oliver, November 6. 8—Amos G. Strahl, December 4; Anthony King, December 4. 10—John C. Riebe, March 24. 12—Amias Streich, March 24. 22—Michael Folz, March 24.

1872: 4—Daniel C. Budd, January 5. 6—William B. Franklin, June 25. 8—Charlotte Sumner, September 4; James M. Sumner, September 12. 10—William Schumming, February 10; Christopher Klueas, January 10. 11—E. Streich, April 13. 14—John Gremer, May 8. 18—Sanford Huddle, December 2; Jessie Lyons, December 2. 20—David Alexandria, October 25; William Peterson, June 25; George Huddle, December 2. 22—Albert Copeland, December 2. 30—Herman Gee, January 1; Scarlet F.

Smith, January 1. 32—Basdell D. Massay, February 3; Charles Duffee, February 3; John Kalble, August 26; Nathaniel Chaffins, January 1.

1873: 4—Austin Merriman, July 9. 6—Walter Fisher, December 15. 8—Jabez Tuey, July 9. 9—Thomas Montgomery, December 28. 10—Albert Riebe, April 10. 11—F. Wildung, March 5. 14—John Goetz, April 3. 20—James M. Corey, July 10; William Montgomery, July 1; Cassel Thompson, July 9; Stephen Thompson, July 10. 22—James B. Nelson, April 10. 23—M. Fisher, February 15. 26—Jesse Christopher, April 10. 28—David Babb, April 10. 32—John Sherman, April 29. 34—Conrad Griswold, July 11.

1874: 3—Jones & Alguire, May 2; Thomas & Jones, May 8. 5—John F. Pearson, October 22; Peter Frykman, July 31. 6—Jonas Nelson, November 13. 11—F. Wildung, August 4; W. Schumming, July 31. 13—Fred Brose, September 25; William Krauel, September 25. 15—Christopher Dangers, September 30. 23—William Bokberg, October 1. 27—Fred Klammer, October 22. 30—Elizabeth Wise, March 24; William E. Patrick, March 24. 33—Thomas Graham, January 26; I. Gulzog, October 8; John Schlager, September 7. 34—A. Larson, November 4.

1875: 3—F. G. & G. P. Gould, December 23. 5—Isaac Workman, February 15; William Matchett, December 31. 9—C. E. Carter, June 4; Thomas Montgomery, September 1. 13—August Schumming, April 1; John Toger, October 12; S. Dahnbastel, November 5. 15—Harriet Grenhagen, April 14. 17—John Montgomery, December 28. 19—John Klingenberg, December 31. 21—Robert Workman, July 22. 32—Mike Schlogel, January 17. 35—Louis Peterson, October 8; Gilbert Middagh, April 15; Magnus A. Miller, March 12; Gottlieb Spindler, July 19.

1876: 3—Lars Olson, August 7. 5—E. Boswell, September 22; Isaac Workman, February 15; J. H. Dean, January 14; John D. Culp, August 12; J. Z. Cochrane, September 16; Walter Fisher, August 4; C. E. Carter, April 13; A. G. Strahl, February 7. 6—William Reibe, March 7. 7—Isaac Biterman, March 24; J. R. Chamberlin, August 15; A. Martin, October 3. 9—William Dewes, February 10; William Alguire, April 5; William Flemming, January 14; Robert Flemming, January 14; H. E. Jones, February 7; John Battles, July 22; G. B. Tuttle, November 7. 15—D. M. Brooks, September 28. 17—William H. Tuhey, January 10; Alfred Knowlton, August 28; S. Sleth, October 3; George Ruggles, January 10. 21—S. Huddle, October 26; Robert Workman, October 2. 23—M. Folz, August 9. 27—F. Reck, November 22; William Bier, November 2. 35—Andrew Swanson, February 7; A. Larson & L. Peterson, July 10; G. Spindler, September 11.

1877: 5—John F. Pierson, November 30. 7—W. Hip, September 3; J. Biterman, February 6; L. Cyrus, April 21; John Eodes,

April 21; John F. Pearson, April 5. 9—John F. Cesar, April 24. 11—J. Gerber, March 2. 15—William Kutz, March 24; F. B. Meister, June 1. 17—A. W. Jones, February 23; W. Goodsell, April 2; C. Shanley, August 28; F. Shanley, August 20; M. Battles, January 4. 19—Jessie Steth, April 1. 21—Robert Workman, March 29; A. Corbin, March 17; A. W. Jones, February 23. 27—John Klukas, October 10. 29—Alvin N. Doyle, July 13; W. F. Mosher, January 9; M. Osterbaum, November 26; Robert A. Morrison, February 16. 31—Martin Schlagen, May 3. 33—William Graham, May 23; Martin Ernhert, January 11; Thomas Graham, January 26. 36—Ole Swonson, December 10.

1878: August Kroklan, October 28. 13—F. Hasling, May 27. 16—Charles Goodsell, November 7. 19—Lathrop E. Reed, July 22. 21—Fritz Hewer, June 12; August Gerber, December 11. 27—F. Jeger, February 21; William Birkholz, October 27. 29—Fred Birkholz, October 27; M. Schlager, February 21. 31—John Brachner, March 7; L. Armentrout, May 24. 33—William Bier, January 10; Andrew Schlagel, April 9. 35—Gilbert Middaugh, Jr., January 11.

1879: 21—John Gerber, January 16; August Gerber, December 11. 27—H. E. Jones and F. Wildung, March 3.

**Township 118, Range 28 (Stockholm).** The first claim in this Congressional township was taken in 1859. The one who filed that year was: 3—Hugh McAnulty, October 8.

Those who filed in 1860 were: 4—August Mooers, October 20; Henry Mooers, October 20.

1864: 26—Sarah Gore, May 2.

1865: 18—Andrew Swanberg, August 23; James Laing, June 6.

1868: 6—Newton Carr, December 18.

1869: 6—Roderick McLennon, December 23; Henry C. Bull, September 20. 20—M. V. Cochrane, August 2; C. E. Cochrane, August 2.

1870: 4—Andrew Janson, June 20. 6—George Fredericks, May 19. 12—Joseph Lane, June 17. 20—John Brown, June 20. 30—James A. Martin, June 6. 34—Jeremiah Cox, September 27.

1871: 12—William G. Pettit, June 1; George W. Mainard, December 4; Marshall Cyrus, December 4. 14—Peter Madig, October 20; Peter Halstenson, November 17; Nels Peterson, November 17. 18—Andrew Swanson, September 12; Halsten Pehrson, July 18. 20—Peter Stefanson, July 18. 24—Michael Hendrickson, November 17; Jons Nilson, November 17; Andrew Olson, October 20; Ole O. Klingenberg, November 17. 26—Jons Jonsen, October 20. 30—Peter Hanson, July 18.

1872: 3—Joseph Kreinbring, June 11. 4—Erik Johnson. 8—John Paulson, July 3; John Peterson, February 8; Peter Almqvist, July 3; Hendrick Pallson, July 3. 10—John Halstenson,



February 8; Mathias Oleson, February 8. 14—Oliff Erickson, July 10; John Erickson, July 10. 18—Mary Johnson, February 8; Andrew Peterson, February 8; Andrew Swanberg, January 16. 20—John Pierson. 24—Jacob Whitesel, March 11.

1873: 2—Mark Tracy, March 20. 8—Swan Swanson, January 3. 10—Nils Olson, August 18. 12—Cornelius C. Culp, July 12; Cyrus Pettit, March 20. 14—Jons Madig, October 21; John Nelson, August 18. 18—John Tack, October 21. 24—Jessie Steth, January 25; C. P. Steth. 26—John Johnson, March 18; Franc Fifter, March 18; Nelson O. Bergstrom, March 18.

1874: 3—Amos Chambers, October 13. 5—Peter Frykman, August 27. 9—P. J. Eckman, October 13. 10—John Glassca, November 30. 12—Andrew Simpson, May 11. 13—Fred Brose, September 25; William Krand, September 25. 14—John Johnson, October 21. 20—John Shipp, October 21. 26—Spencer Workman, January 19.

1875: 1—William G. Pettit, August 25. 2—Jonas A. Pettit, September 1; Charles Kreinbring, January 30. 3—Otto Chrys-tous, October 28. 5—Charles Eckman, July 12. 8—P. Erickson, November 9. 9—P. J. Eckman, October 13; Nils Larson, December 1. 10—Jons Erickson, March 18. 11—S. S. Sigfridson, March 23; Ole Manson, December 30. 13—J. P. Eckman, December 18. 15—Magnus Hawkinson, October 12; Peter Moody, June 5; Nils Manson, December 30. 17—Andrew J. Bergland, March 5; Benjamin Brown, December 18. 19—Oloff Titterund, September 22; Peter Wicklund, November 30. 21—Peter Nyilson, June 3; John Brown, March 5. 23—Erick Nelson, October 19. 26—Olof Johnson, March 18.

1876: 1—Ole Olson, February 10; John Norquist, August 4; L. G. Prendergast, June 15; A. A. McLeod, April 19; William Tenistel, August 4. 3—James Z. Cochrane, October 27; H. Erickson, August 4; Amos Chambers, October 3. 5—Peter Lynstrom, January 10; Andrew Gunderson, June 27; L. G. Pendergast, November 4. 7—Lars Cardgren, July 11; J. Nordstrom, March 24; Louis Callgren, March 1; L. G. Pendergast, June 15. 9—John Peterson, August 4; Ole Holenberg, March 8; E. Eliason, February 7. 11—Gustave Ring, February 22; Tulin Nelson, August 4; L. G. Pendergast, June 15; John Erickson, August 4; John Nyilson, January 15. 13—Peter Hanson, August 4. 15—A. P. Johnson, January 10; Magnus Hawkinson, August 4; John Erickson, March 25; Ole Manson, November 1; H. P. Upton, November 30. 19—H. P. Upton, November 30. 21—P. E. Delone, January 10; Andrew Ship, August 4; Carl Carlson, October 5; L. P. Anderson, July 6; L. G. Pendergast, May 9. 23—Nils Nilson, February 15; Louis Harrington, December 18; H. P. Upton, November 30; Erick Olson, February 7; Lars Pierson, November 13. 25—John Berg, October 28; B. Nelson, November 20; Louis Harrington, Decem-

ber 10; J. P. Edmond, June 1; John J. Lof, April 20; John Johnson, August 18; H. P. Upton, November 30. 27—Louis Harrington, December 18; H. P. Upton, November 30.

1877: 1—John Debalt, March 23. 3—A. Corbin, April 20; C. J. Saldenberg, November 20; H. Erickson. 5—A. and J. Hord, June 27. 9—Peter Palson, September 15; Niles Larson, June 20. 11—A. P. Peterson, June 7. 13—A. Cyrus, June 4; Albert Johnson, September 10. 15—J. P. Lindquist, February 7; John Moody, March 13. 17—A. P. Alenquist, April 25; Nils J. Donelson, September 17; John Nilson, January 8; Peter Johnson, July 10. 19—Peter Stepherson, January 12. 21—Louis Harrington, November 28; Isaac Ship, November 10. 23—J. Boecklund, February 10; John Bergman, April 11. 25—B. Thurstenson, April 27; George Artner, February 8. 27—Louis Harrington, July 16.

1878: 1—B. Thurstenson, July 30. 5—Andrew Johnson. 7—A. A. McLeod, June 7; John Peterson, June 6. 9—E. Eke, April 2; Andrew Johnson, May 24. 11—Peter Moody, April 2; B. Thurstenson, July 31; Nels Peterson. 17—H. M. Peterson, April 2. 19—Oloff Titterund, October 29. 23—James Nelson, March 2; Louis Harrington, June 15. 19—Peter Wicklund, November 30. 21—Swan Maltberg, April 10.

**Township 119, Range 28 (Cokato).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 11—S. P. Lowell, October 12. 13—Sarah Murphy, October 21; Timothy Lowell, August 22. 24—J. H. Arnell, October 19. 34—A. Montour, September 1.

1859: 12—D. Griffith, October 8.

1860: J. P. Moores, November 26. 34—H. Moores, November 24.

1867: 12—E. N. Clark, July 12.

1868: 6—N. Carr, December 18. 14—N. D. Terrell, January 30. 3—H. C. Bull, September 5.

1869: 26—William Lee, January 27; Amos Chambers, January 27. 34—D. Griffith, January 27.

1870: 12—Heirs of S. Henser, November 12. 26—A. Jenks, September 1; M. Edgerly, October 8.

1871: 12—G. C. Perkins, April 7; L. W. Perkins, April 7. 26—Heirs of J. G. Watson, November 15.

1872: 7—John Larson, September 3. 8—John A. Christopherson, September 10. 13—G. C. Perkins, December 25. 14—Mary Larson, February 9. 15—J. J. Williams, April 22. 20—K. O. Motsterbergen, May 21; H. J. Hillond, May 21. 20—E. Frykstrom, September 10. 22—W. Coffey, October 17. 24—A. Oleson, February 7. 26—William Risley, Jr., May 2; A. Cody, May 21. 27—C. Wold, June 20. 28—Jesse B. Miller, October 17; W. R. Sloughter, October 17. 32—M. Johnson, February 1;

J. G. Carlblour, February 1; O. Johnson, February 1; A. Peterson, February 7. 34—F. Griffith, May 21; B. Lee, September 24.

1823: 4—A. Tack, October 22; C. J. Janson, October 22; A. Carlson, October 22; Swan Carlson, October 22. 8—C. Sunberg, October 22; Lars Johnson, June 19; Nils Peterson, October 21. 15—W. Greke and T. Talmon, December 30. 18—P. Johnson, May 5; A. Samuelson, October 12. 20—P. Falk, June 6; O. H. Hellond, March 19. 22—John Miller, October 21; M. Swanberg; Nels Johnson, March 19. 24—A. Bromfield, January 27. 25—L. Johnson, March 21. 26—Jane Jenks, July 2. 28—C. Gustafson, October 21; H. Brooks, December 1; Andrew Johnson, October 21.

1874: 3—John Carlson, September 2; John Callonder, January 10; Peter Bronsnas, June 25. 4—Hans Aminson, October 21; O. Swanson, October 21. 5—C. A. Smith and C. J. Johnson, November 24; Fred Anderson, November 24. 7—S. O. Oronen, November 24. 8—P. Hoggberg, March 17. 10—B. Johnson, March 18; John Carlson, October 21. 15—M. Henry, July 7; Z. Grisher, May 8; H. Cuopolo, August 6; J. J. Williams, June 26; Peter Gunrie, July 17. 17—Cabel Abrahamson, June 27. 18—John Backstrom, March 19; John Mill, March 19. 20—Ole Oleson, October 21; P. Nilsson, October 5. 21—John Halland, July 28. 22—O. Jansson, March 17; D. M. Jenks, January 5. 23—John Larson, September 25. 24—A. J. Swedberg, October 21. 27—M. Swonberg, July 21; N. and S. Eckstrand, July 25; Ellen M. Knights, March 27. 28—H. Enson, October 21. 33—Fred Peterson, July 31; A. F. Johnson, October 13. 35—Henry Henderson, August 20; Otto Chytrows, July 28.

1875: 4—John Anderson, March 18. 8—A. Carlson, March 18. 9—E. Elisen, December 17. 10—J. H. Wink, October 5; H. Thompson, October 5; John Peterson, October 5; A. Link, October 5; Ole Westeberg, October 5. 14—A. Larson, November 8; A. Johnson, October 5. 15—Peter Sallmon, January 5. 17—J. M. Johnson, December 21; Carl Johnson, September 22; C. Abrahamson, June 27; J. O. Snabb, December 21. 18—Isaac Barba, October 3; Nils Johnson, October 5; A. Zachanason, October 5. 19—H. J. Hilland, February 22. 20—John Artemon, March 18. 21—John Nygren, June 2. 25—E. Erickson, January 5; L. Johnson, November 15; John Wallen, November 23; A. Mattson, December 18. 27—William Kaffy, December 31; Erick Hisort, May 4; D. Pierson, November 26; S. Halmquist, January 22; Catherine Steele, May 20. 28—O. L. Askin, March 18. 29—L. G. Pendergast, December 14; A. F. Johnson, November 23. 31—N. P. Ryberg, July 12. 35—S. Johnson, August 21.

1876: 3—E. Johnson, October 27. 5—John Sunberg, September 1; H. P. Breed, August 24. 7—L. G. Pendergast, May 9; A. Salomonson, November 24; A. Hara, October 4; John Wagner and John Lindquist, October 7. 11—H. S. Rustod, November 9.

15—John Erickson, March 15; V. Forer, August 18. 17—N. Peterson, December 11; M. Hendrickson, April 7; S. J. Anderson, March 2; L. Harrington, December 18. 19—Isaac Borges, March 16; A. P. Millar, November 30. 21—A. Anderson, March 21; E. J. Ecklund, January 19. 23—G. W. Edgerby, June 15; Henry Johnson, September 13. 29—John Peel, August 4; O. W. Carlblorm, August 12. 31—J. G. Swanson, November 2; S. A. Ringner, October 30. 33—L. Hoglund, April 25. 35—A. P. Peterson, March 24; M. Tracy, November 14; Charles Krinenburg, February 8.

1877: 3—E. Johnson, October 27; John Carlson, November 28; John Morris, February 16; John Collender, January 10. 5—Ole Noystrom, January 4; Peter Osttund, March 24; L. L. Church, March 24; B. Thurstenson, November 12. 7—L. G. Pendergast, March 4; John Woglon, January 30; W. R. Merriman, January 29; H. Matsin, December 20. 9—H. Olatta, December 21; O. Swenson, March 24; A. Thompson, October 31; H. Hanson, May 29; Grace Homer, December 6. 11—A. Lonker, February 7; E. Hendrickson, December 24. 15—A. Corbin, March 17. 19—C. Duckening, May 21; A. Constonens, August 8. 21—J. O. Motstertegen, February 16; L. G. Pendergast, April 3. 25—Erick Erickson, January 5; H. Mattson, December 29. 27—M. Miller, February 1; John Knights, March 27. 31—J. F. Blair, January 31; Ole Manson, October 10; E. W. Carlblorm, June 26. 33—Lars Hoglund, August 12; Peter Anderson, February 23. 35—H. Hendrickson, January 30; John Johnson, February 23.

1878: 1—Mark Tracy and C. Klenberg, September 14. 5—P. E. Osttund, May 28; S. Carlson, December 13. 9—H. Hanson, July 22. 11—Hans Mattson, July 22. 23—S. Greek, July 12. 27—J. B. Johnson, March 25. 29—S. Westlund, July 2; Louis Peterson. 31—J. F. Plair, January 10; P. Schilt, April 5. 35—A. Anderson, September 13. 14—A. Kyos, April 1. 33—M. Paulson, April 25.

**Township 119, Range 27 (Middleville).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1858. Those who filed that year were: 22—John Lang, April 7. 24—Michael McCabe, April 3. These were on the edge of the township. The next entries were made in 1860. Those who filed that year were: 35—William P. Buck, November 19.

1868: 10—H. Boarp, June 19. 20—B. Thurstenson, March 25. 22—L. Barth, June 19.

1869: 6—J. J. Stanton, November 2. 10—M. Swartout, April 3. 24—M. Hayes, March 22; H. Hayes, July 9. 27—G. Reinmuth, September 4. 28—A. Enke, March 2; J. Hanson, May 11. 32—A. Christopher, July 6.

1870: 6—I. White, September 13. 8—A. Meacham, November 1. 14—G. O. Copeland, September 1. 24—M. E. Harnett,



April 1. 26—J. Canoin, December 1. 28—J. Hanson, May 9. 32—George Lackett, April 8; A. Cochran, July 11.

1871: 4—I. Hient, December 1; A. G. Patter, December 1; J. W. Hient, December 1. 5—M. J. Bayer, March 1. 8—J. Oliver, November 6. 10—D. A. Boam, June 12. 12—J. W. Mabrey, August 23. 24—Ellen McMahon, October 18; J. Rierdon, October 19. 26—M. Dorfler, September 26; B. Herbst, September 26. 32—W. T. Boxell, November 6; C. W. Rickerson, May 5.

1872: 4—E. Stout, September 2; W. Denney, January 5; D. C. Cook, January 5. 6—M. White, September 2. 8—O. H. Benson, October 9; O. M. Allison, November 25; S. M. Meacham, October 9. 10—H. Dodel, January 5; J. S. Peat, September 2; A. Carwin, September 2; G. S. Broomfield, January 27. 12—J. Rafferty, June 10; W. H. Bailey, January 7; H. Joyce, January 7; C. M. Hiatt, October 23. 20—J. , May 14. 22—M. Taylor, February 8; J. Scheer, February 10. 24—T. McGuire, June 10. 28—F. Harsch, March 14; W. M. Garman, March 14. 30—W. G. Williams, February 8; J. W. Blackburn, February 8; L. Watson, January 27. 32—J. McCalla, February 8; D. J. McDaniel, January 5.

1873: 4—L. Bowman, July 11. 14—W. Hall, July 21; E. B. Hiatt, August 6; M. Ziegler, July 21. 20—T. Hartrich, October 24. 25—J. Doeffler, December 1. 29—W. Boxell, November 28; T. Henderson, December 1. 30—E. Stenbacher, August 26.

1874: 4—W. Bowman, January 1. 8—A. Simpson, May 11. 12—J. Dix, January 1; W. W. Parker, January 1. 14—J. S. Parker, January 1; H. H. Gray, January 1. 20—L. Van Norden, March 5; L. Fogle, March 4. 23—J. Barrell, November 28. 25—J. Gardner, August 11. 26—H. Lombort, February 23; B. Merz, February 23. 27—F. D. Predfield, October 8. 28—F. Schenkenberger, July 13. 30—J. H. McGuire, January 26. 31—D. Gilmer, January 22; L. Ferrell, September 17. 33—W. Goodsell, July 6; J. F. Pearson, October 22. 35—W. Wildung, August 4.

1875: 5—Jones and Alguire, September 24; E. A. Saughter, April 21. 7—G. Hyser, July 12. 8—E. Dable, July 22. 21—J. and C. Luhman, September 23. 22—K. Ziegler, January 4. 23—T. Daniel, November 3; P. Lafore, March 5. 25—N. Gooley, June 22; John Dorfler, December 22; B. Merz, September 14. 27—H. E. Jones, November 9; W. Sonders, October 12; H. T. Cord, December 13. 29—J. Cunningham, May 26. 33—A. Christopherson, November 4.

1876: 3—F. Adams, September 15; W. Buchman, November 28; C. F. Zimmerman, October 30; J. Plomtaux, August 14; C. J. Gardner, May 10; C. A. Cummings, June 6. 9—G. W. Hickney, October 3. 11—A. E. Boyce, January 18. 13—L. Hawkins, March 24; N. and O. Hawkins, March 24. 15—G. P. Gould, July 27. 17—C. C. Culp, October 13; G. L. Pendergast, June 15. 19—

A. Thompson, October 3; K. Halverson, March 27; S. J. Malenquist, October 28. 21—A. Enke, October 19; P. Boyle, October 3; G. Reinmuth, February 8. 23—J. C. Flemming, October 7. 25—F. C. Hollenback, March 24; J. Stotz, March 18. 27—G. W. Lumer, February 7; H. Luther, August 7; W. J. Hampton, February 10; J. Hussey, July 21; F. A. Kerns, August 4; J. Dewees, October 20. 29—G. P. Gould, July 27; A. O. Dahlgren, October 30; W. P. Hoolbrook, October 14; M. McClay, November 1; J. Z. Cochrane, September 16; T. Henderson, October 9. 31—P. Dahlgren, May 10; O. Olson, August 8; J. O. and P. Peterson, August 4. 33—H. Oby, March 18; W. T. Boxell, February 22; N. C. Ricker-son, September 28. 35—G. Lutman, May 31; F. Hein, November 29; L. Morgan, September 30.

1877: 1—G. K. Chattein, January 4; C. Pommereike, November 3. 3—F. Anderson, October 12. 5—L. A. Towle, February 15; E. A. Slaughter, May 9; G. A. Magoon, September 24; N. A. Gray, February 27; A. K. Gray, January 16. 7—J. F. Pierson, November 30; J. R. Tomlinson, January 29; H. Mattson, December 6. 11—J. Klenlund, December 27; A. Corbin, March 24. 15—S. Gray, November 9; J. Stahl, October 31; H. Preiggie, October 31. 17—M. Falke, March 1; F. Wildung, September 17. 19—J. Johnson, October 12; E. Oleson, January 4. 21—H. Grenhagen, November 10; H. Habighorst, November 10; F. Grenhagen, November 10. 23—J. Zeigler, March 15. 27—L. Fallalsbee, January 22. 33—J. Dewers, June 29; J. F. Pierson, May 26.

1878: 1—H. Mattson, July 22. 9—J. M. Mareley, February 20. 11—H. Kenland, February 4. 15—H. D. Horton, February 26; W. Eggrsgluss, February 20. 17—R. Workman, September 2. 19—G. Rodin, May 10; P. Henderson and A. Thompson, June 12; K. Halverson, March 27. 21—F. Wildung, October 26; F. Kuno, October 26; J. Reinmuth, February 18. 29—H. Miller, April 1. 31—P. Dahlgren, November 25. 33—C. R. Richerson, June 17. 35—G. Luhman, April 15.

1879: 17—J. F. Chevalier, January 2. 19—B. Thurstenson, January 28. 21—F. Wildung, March 29.

**Township 119, Range 26 (Marysville).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 14—Anna Findley, July 26. 18—William A. Findley, July 22; Orange P. Whitney, December 30. 20—Sarah J. Finley, July 22. 29—A. W. Hunt, October 6.

1858: 26—M. Brown, May 6.

1859: 31—H. Morris, May 6. 35—A. J. Stacy, October 25.

1860: 24—S. Kreidler, October 6. 30—J. McGinety, November 20; A. B. Caldwell, November 24. 32—T. C. Healey, November 26; M. Glover, December 12.

1861: 24—J. Benttell, November 6.

1865: 2—C. Flamont, August 9. 14—F. Berthiaume, June 22; S. G. Kreidler, September 4. 23—J. B. Rounds, September 18. 30—J. O. Connell, June 16.

1866: 25—F. N. Stacy, April 16.

1867: 23—J. Stephens, February 26.

1868: 30—J. O. Connell, March 5; T. J. McHugh, March 5; J. McHugh, January 28. 32—H. Bremer, January 28. 34—J. Cramsie, July 2; A. Fronev, March 5; T. Muldoon, March 5.

1869: 8—P. Carroll, March 22. 18—T. Birmingham, March 22; O. Kelley, March 22. 24—D. Kreider, June 17. 26—Catherine McKeon, July 20. 27—J. Gagnon, July 10. 28—J. Robideau, July 14; A. Gundro, July 14; O. Miller, July 14. 35—P. Bannon, May 12.

1870: 2—F. Berthenaume, October 2; P. Lafaire, October 3; C. Flamont, October 3. 4—Uzziah Berthenaume, October 3; Margaret Marcionet, October 3; L. Gerard, October 3. 8—J. Crapo, October 8; A. H. Jewett, March 7; C. H. Jewett, March 7. 10—P. Haley, October 1; N. Tight, October 1; E. Berthenaume, October 3; M. Broullette, October 1; J. Nicholaus, October 1. 12—J. Johnson, September 22; C. Arneson, September 22; E. J. Modig, September 22; H. Boener, August 13; S. Erickson, September 22. 19—H. Lommers, September 7; R. Borup, October 3. 26—P. Fallihes, May 26; J. A. Conner, December 16. 28—F. Sonders, June 29; Margaret Pilot, June 29; J. Robinson, Jr., June 29. 29—J. Casevoux, January 5. 31—J. R. Rice, September 28. 32—M. O. Rearden, May 26; Heirs of H. Schultz, June 29.

1871: 10—B. Robasse, October 1. 18—T. Dustin, August 23. 22—I. Gronger, July 14; J. Mee, March 20. 24—V. Stattz, October 27; W. T. Jordon, June 22. 35—A. Kehoe, November 24.

1872: 4—J. B. Christian, Jr., January 3. 8—A. Jewett, March 7. 12—J. Carlson, July 24; P. Swenson, July 24. 14—J. Lattermon, April 4. 22—I. Barr, March 7. 34—T. Robin, March 18.

1873: 2—J. Robarga, May 27; T. Pevnseia, May 27. 3—T. Olson, December 31. 5—P. S. Fortune, July 18. 6—A. Pettier, May 27. 8—O. Vea, May 27; J. Crapeau, October 8. 10—H. C. Morman, August 26. 14—J. Luckman, August 13. 15—P. Larson, November 28. 21—J. T. Nyleson, May 6. 22—H. Gronger, August 26. 31—Griggs & Newcomb, January 3.

1874: 2—L. Bedore, March 12. 6—P. Mara, January 29; M. Hoffencistar, November 23; F. Rossett, January 20; P. Chapat, January 20. 8—O. Berthenaume, March 12. 10—L. I. Carpenter, April 3. 18—J. Cavalier, January 20; P. Peterson, December 7. 24—A. Hayes, February 5. 29—J. Delboch, March 20. 33—J. W. Griggs, May 21.

1875: 6—T. Haverty, November 23. 7—M. Hofmeister, July 6. 9—J. Gungner, July 16. 15—C. Oleson, March 5; J. F. Blom,

March 27. 19—H. Muster, July 5; C. Muster, July 6. 21—A. Stumberg, August 2. 26—J. Flemming, January 22.

1876: A. J. Oberson, August 12; J. Sobie, October 16; J. C. Nugent, November 29; L. Larson, May 1; I. Gutzwiller, Jr., March 29; A. Pengue, August 4. 5—Z. Dunaris, August 4; F. Dunaris, August 4; H. E. Jones, August 21; C. Cardnial, October 27; A. Veo, September 21; P. Grondois, August 4; A. Grombois, August 12. 7—O. Veau, August 4; G. P. Gould, July 27. 9—A. Robasse, May 23; I. Berthenaume, July 13; B. Berthier, September 21; P. Haley, January 10; X. Bachat, November 29; O. Dohlin, October 3. 15—P. Larson, September 21. 17—J. Crepan, September 11; H. Henderson, October 28; T. Dustin, December 16. 18—L. A. Wood, January 27. 19—T. Boengingham, March 21; H. Lommers, July 5. 21—J. Nelson, March 28; S. Oleson, January 24. 27—J. A. Lindquist, September 17; F. Shaley, September 29; R. Bemard, October 24; M. Martinka, September 11. 29—D. Pareau, November 2; J. Carevoux, August 31.

1877: 7—J. Stumpf, March 6. 9—J. C. Nugent, November 17; J. B. Plont, April 5. 15—E. P. Larson, November 5; P. Larson, October 16. 17—S. P. Peterson, January 4; J. A. Mattson, April 26. 19—C. G. Myers. 21—A. Buckman, January 7. 23—J. Stephens, February 26. 31—P. J. Deckers, April 30. 33—D. Justis, August 3. 5—F. Heatin, March 7; I. Gutzwiller, Jr., December 23. 9—J. C. Nugent, February 2. 19—M. Romola, May 7. 29—J. Pareau, June 21.

1879: 6—J. Chatelain, April 1. 7—J. Stumpf, April 11. 20—N. Dalbee, April 1. 30—J. B. Lornbart, April 1.

**Township 119, Range 25 (Rockford and small part of Franklin).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 10—John H. Thomas, October 24. 11—John C. Jones, October 24. 24—David Cline, October 24. 26—Henry Luther, October 23. 27—Doratheia Hotzel, December 1. 28—Josiah Stuart, October 28; George Kechnell, February 28. 29—Henry M. Ketchum, December 14. 32—Louis Vertum, October 24; Henry M. Ketchum, December 14. 33—W. A. Coggeshall, October 31.

Those that filed in 1858 were: 11—John Atkinson, February 18; John Moffit, January 22. 21—Henry Young, January 22. 26—William Knoble, February 22. 32—Gottlieb Eppel, April 21.

1859: 4—Heirs of E. J. Crawford, February 18; J. Ramsey, April 2. 5—J. W. Freed, October 28. 6—J. Taylor, October 28. 9—J. Leeper, September 29. 10—J. H. Thomas, October 24; George Holdship, May 5. 12—A. G. Thayer, April 19. 22—G. Ruckholdt, December 5. 31—J. Crawshaw, March 26. 35—P. Christian, September 6.

1860: 6—S. Bacon, April 5. 10—H. Mills, November 20. 13—C. L. Angel, November 21; H. Leaderbach, August 29. 15—



J. H. Dean, October 20; P. Lockwood, November 20. 19—H. Haskins, July 17. 22—J. S. Fredericks, November 26; A. B. Fredericks, November 26. 24—W. H. Roberts, October 20. 25—S. R. Workman, May 14. 26—C. Barth, August 27. 31—M. W. Rew, November 26. 32—J. O. Connell, November 27; Fred Schwerne, October 6. 34—J. Dietz, August 21; T. Zeibarth, January 21; M. Schaust, January 21. 35—G. Calodine, August 27; F. Mayer, August 27.

1861: 19—A. H. Knaeble, July 16.

1864: 15—J. Mills, October 15.

1865: 1—C. Brown, September 1. 2—P. Darrow, Sr., May 12; N. E. Stewart, June 6. 5—F. Boerner, September 6. 12—S. Parmeter, April 12. 14—J. F. Burmester, June 16. 15—A. A. Sisom and G. D. George, March 14. 18—E. Nagle, August 10; J. Menz, August 14. 23—A. A. Sisom, March 14. 25—L. Wens, March 16. 27—L. Cook, September 16. 33—S. Ziebarth, January 24; T. Ziebarth, May 23; J. Siebel, December 31; T. Jigler, January 24.

1866: 3—A. H. Cooper, December 13. 7—L. C. Ilstrup, August 28. 12—G. W. Parker, February 8.

1867: George Sook, March 28. 17—C. Boumer, May 27.

1868: 1—B. Palmeter, December 15. 18—W. A. Cronk, March 13. 20—J. Samsell, Jr., March 13; Margaret Samsell, March 20. 23—J. G. Welch, February 12. 30—H. Schultz, February 6; J. Kriedler, March 13. 31—J. Quinn, June 17.

1869: 2—E. D. Spaulding, September 15; E. S. Spaulding, September 15; W. F. Thompson, December 21; C. N. Cooper, December 21. 3—C. Roberts, November 12. 4—C. Barnzier, July 26; A. Roloff, January 20. 8—C. Zimmer, February 1; W. Deckon, June 17. 10—N. Dyer, January 20. 14—W. Sook, December 21; J. W. Silliman, December 21; J. Sheridan, December 21. 18—E. Nagle, June 17; Mary Steinhiller, June 17. 22—C. Ebel, June 17. 24—W. Albitz, July 1.

1870: 2—J. T. Van Valkenburgh, November 15; W. F. Thompson, December 21. 6—S. Ilstrup, April 11. 14—J. M. Higgins, December 6. 16—S. H. Dean, January 7. 20—O. W. Crawford, December 6; R. O. Crawford, December 22; A. Bucklin, December 6. 27—Julia E. Breed, June 2. 28—D. McCarter, November 7.

1871: 7—A. Ilstrup, April 25. 12—J. Crandall, April 20. 16—S. H. Dean, February 4. 30—G. W. Kredler, August 10; E. Allen, March 2; T. Ziebarth, May 23.

1872: J. Johnson, January 3. 6—N. Anderson, January 3; N. Peterson, January 3. 8—N. Bengtson, January 3. 11—H. Dyer, February 26. 20—J. Meier, March 7; H. Schultz, March 7; B. Peterson, January 3. 24—C. T. Coverdale, March 13. 26—

J. Cook, December 2. 28—S. C. Frederick, March 12. 34—M. Ross, March 7.

1873: 18—J. Rochlke, January 2; G. Leerson, January 2. 28—C. D. Frederick, August 15. 30—H. Brandt, January 2.

1874: 1—A. Hopkins, December 15. 3—J. Seibert, April 27. 20—C. Knall, October 15. 24—C. A. Sevear, October 8. 36—J. H. Thompson, July 15.

1876: 12—A. Mattson, January 14.

1877: 33—E. Otto, February 21.

**Township 119, Range 24 (Fractional township—Rockford).**

The first claims in this part of the Congressional township were entered in 1856. Those who filed that year were: 5—J. S. Burnside, October 2. 6—David Cook, August 8. 7—David Cook, August 8. 8—Amasa S. Gordon, August 8; William Sleight, September 29. 9—Frederick Clark, February 4. 17—William B. Burrell, August 25; William Sleight, September 29; Isaac P. Harvey, September 15; Cyrus C. Jenks, September 15. 18—Phebe Brownell, December 24. 20—Cyrus C. Jenks, September 15; Cyrus Redlon, July 15; Isaac P. Harvey, July 15; G. D. George, September 29; C. O. Thomas, July 16. 21—Joseph Wolf, July 16; C. A. Comstock, July 19. 29—George F. Ames, June 23; Joel Florida, July 23. 30—James D. Young, October 20; Albert H. Taisey, October 30. 31—S. H. Morse, July 15.

1857: 4—Jacob B. Miller, February 2; John Frederick, July 15. 5—Robert Godfrey, June 25. 6—William Godfrey, June 25; Herman B. Cole, March 24; Gabriel T. Harrow, July 23. 7—Frederick Redlon, October 21; Sally Woodard, August 31. 8—Thomas Prestidge, September 14; John Meisell, June 1. 9—Ann C. Poolton, April 20; Casimer Geib, March 14. 10—Frank Leider, August 3. 18—Azenath Angel, July 8; George L. Morse, December 23. 19—John Kirk, May 2; Allen G. Sexton, July 25. 20—Enoch Miller, August 18. 29—John M. Buot, March 27. 30—Benjamin F. Bailey, April 13.

1858: 4—Ludwig Roloff, January 27.

1859: 8—Owen Davies, December 7.

1860: 3—Christian Wolff, October 9; Andrew Borngesser, October 8; William Volbrecht, October 9; Henry Snopeef, October 26. 5—Thomas Walker, October 17. 17—Jackson Steward, October 24. 18—Asa W. Lucas, March 1. 30—John F. Powers, October 18. 31—Artemus W. Dorman, October 18.

1861: 2—Henry Wolff, December 19.

1862: 4—Frank Wagner, April 11.

1864: 7—Jane Owen, December 30. 9—Frederick Puckett, November 12.

1870: 7—William S. Darrow, June 1.

1871: 5—James Sheridan, December 11.

**Township 120, Range 23. Fractional (Frankfort).** The first claim in this part of the Congressional township was entered in 1856. Those who filed that year were: 1—John Baxter, September 3; Samuel Reem, July 24; Alexander J. Borthwick, July 16; 2—Patrick Burke, July 19. 3—Patrick Wood, July 28. 4—Francis Weaver, November 2; Daniel Carrigan, November 30. 6—John Humal, October 8. 8—L. Ayd, November 4. 9—Thomas Dean, September 2. 10—Patrick Ward, July 28.

1857: 1—P. Meddlestead, May 4. 2—Henry Dryer, December 7; A. Stenglein, March 6. 3—W. Butterfield, April 28; F. Chute, May 7; F. Weaver, November 2. 4—M. Kreimer, July 30. 5—J. B. Weideman, July 6. 6—A. Lindenfielsen, July 21. 7—T. Reigling, October 19; John Schultz, May 15; X. Denler, March 4. 8—J. McAlpine, March 27; James Butterfield, March 14; H. Dupsey. 9—R. Clarke, June 29; R. Quinn, April 28.

1859: 6—J. Lydenfelsen, May 2.

1860: 3—E. Canigan, October 20. 4—J. Campbell, September 10; Neil McNeil, September 10. 5—M. Kriemer, October 19. 6—A. Barber, October 20; J. Nelles, October 18. 8—J. Zackman, October 18. 9—W. Dean, October 22. 10—Heirs of W. Butler, October 6.

1865: 3—W. Foster, March 23. 7—B. Kaster, March 17.

1870: 5—J. Darrack, July 25.

**Township 120, Range 24 (Frankfort).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1855. The one who filed that year was: 3—Anthony Clippen, July 11.

1856: 5—C. Keisner, April 11. 13—C. F. Woodman, June 24. 14—S. Reiling, September 19. 24—Williams Dixon, July 12; A. W. Combs, August 27; P. Schneider, July 12. 25—John Bengenhaimer, August 2. 27—Joseph Arentz, July 16. 28—M. Andrews, September 29; Thomas Steele, Jr., October 27. 32—C. Tilburg, September 20.

1857: 1—J. Guerin, September 7. 2—J. H. Schutter, October 3; A. Treble, August 4. 4—F. Martin, May 14; John T. Auer, June 2; P. Baffirdung, July 17. 5—John Keiffee, June 12; H. Brewer, September 30. 9—H. Servatius, November 4; E. Lenneman, March 20. 10—P. Kayel, September 23; Henry Kayel, July 17; L. Winterhalter, June 4; J. Finn, March 17. 11—B. Jessing, April 23. 12—J. Ebbing, March 12; G. Ebbing, March 12. 13—J. Reeling, March 20; H. Aydt, December 5. 14—A. Schutzler, August 10; F. Gohler, July 6. 15—C. Sickerman, May 19; M. Guffart, April 11; W. Kent, December 31. 17—A. Kuber, August 11; N. Harris, June 26; F. Michaelis, September 21; F. Geyenmeier, November 18—A. Schumacher, June 8; W. E. Schumacher, May 25. 19—G. Fredrick, July 9; J. Gottwaldt, September 1; J. Hoffman; J. Dermot. 20—F. Schultz, November 19; C. Michales, September 8; F. G. Singlar, July 18.

21—M. Felts; N. Rassing, May 30. 22—C. Hens, August 17. 23—C. Feeling, May 25. 25—J. P. Marx, October 3; Heirs of Andrew Marx, May 13; J. H. Meinhardt, March 20. 26—N. Horopres, June 3; J. Klas, July 14; L. Springer, July 10; T. Meinhardt, March 20. 27—P. Hampris, June 3; P. Eull, October 22. 28—J. Thirlen, July 7. 30—J. Dermontt, May 14; A. Elliott, March 23; M. Kohn, July 29. 31—J. Walbach, July 27; M. Surgis, July 31; P. Michaelis, October 27. 33—A. Wagner, February 5. 34—C. Thielen, May 12. 35—J. G. Bicktold, June 20; B. Marks, June 29.

1858: 15—J. G. Gluck, February 23. 25—A. Mayer, January 25. 33—A. Wagner, February 5. 35—S. Karger, February 22.

1859: 18—H. Nicholas, March 30.

1860: 1—V. Herman, October 19; A. Baker, October 20; M. Maus, September 28; J. Vetsch, October 19. 3—P. Schumaker, October 19; S. Schumaker, October 19. 9—H. Dorcott, October 18; J. Servatius, October 24. 11—I. Gutzweiler, October 19; J. Igel, October 19. 12—J. Ebbing, November 17; E. Ebbing, October 18; J. H. Brokamp, September 18; J. Hogumeyer, September 18. 13—J. Dehmer, October 24. 14—S. Kasper, October 18. 21—H. Grosser, August 22. 22—N. Neasan, October 25. 23—F. Fry, October 18. 24—M. Schuler, October 24. 26—J. Morris, October 18. 29—J. Buol, October 19. 32—J. Balls, October 17. 33—W. Roloff, October 9; A. Roloff, October 9; 34—H. Wolf, October 9. 35—J. Vallbrecht, October 20.

1861: 4—J. P. Ohlert, September 14. 8—J. Weyman, July 13. 22—C. Meyer, October 18; C. Uhl, October 25. 24—E. Aydt, July 30. 28—N. Buriges, October 18. 32—J. Dixon, September 20. 34—C. Sutz, October 28.

1864: 7—P. Barthel, December 7. 23—J. Ganz, November 14.

1866: 23—Catharine Fry, December 24. 27—H. Barthel, October 29.

1867: 5—W. Ulman, September 4. 15—S. Casper, March 2. 25—J. B. Marx, October 3.

1870: 25—A. Scheter, March 8. 27—M. Barthel, January 10. 29—T. Cochrane, February 21.

1872: 15—S. Casper, March 2.

1874: 33—A. Wagner, October 13.

1876: 5—M. Ulman, December 23.

1877: 29—C. Bechts, January 3.

1878: 3—I. Gutzweiler, Jr., December 7.

**Township 120, Range 25 (Buffalo).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1858. Those who filed that year were: 18—N. N. Taylor, October 5. 19—Henry Var-



ner, October 29. 26—E. J. Shumway, September 13. 29—Daniel Gray.

1859: 1—Jessie McCurdy, September 19. 3—J. R. Hill, May 11. 5—S. Hatch, March 22. 11—A. J. Riggs, March 18. 15—E. Nagel, July 20. 18—B. Ward, July 19. 20—L. B. Colver, July 19. 29—J. F. Pickens, May 9. 30—Jackson Taylor, in Trust, November 25. 31—Jackson Taylor, October 28. 33—W. H. Huggins, March 17.

1860: 2—W. O. Weston, October 18. 4—W. D. Leonard, October 8; John E. Baker, April 27. 6—Peter W. Holmes, October 22. 8—Joseph Goyette, October 19; C. W. Hudson. 10—Peter Glock, October 8. 11—Fred Stokes, October 20. 12—William Weldell, October 8; Peter Barthel, October 1. 13—G. Miller; V. Wind, October 20; Fred Bereshaber; Paul Fredericks, February 21. 14—T. Machtell, October 18; August Newnert, Jr., October 20. 15—August Newnert, Sr., October 27. 17—C. Chamberlain, October 19; E. T. Tillotson. 18—Jacob Varner, October 9. 19—B. F. Thrift, October 6; John M. Keeler, October 6. 28—O. L. Dudley, April 5. 29—J. J. Odell, October 6; A. W. Dudley, October 18. 30—A. Ackley, October 6. 31—S. Bacon, April 5. 33—L. E. Dudley, October 18; T. W. Hughes, October 17.

1861: 2—A. C. Fairbrother, January 6; Avon Stook, January 22. 12—N. Beck, November 8. 18—S. D. Fuller, September 14. 20—James Gilbert, November 6. 22—Thomas Wren, November 18. 23—W. Heilman, October 16. 24—Henry Kerschte, November 19; C. Hillman, October 16; M. Orth, October 8. 32—H. Stewart, December 21; D. Gray, November 13. 34—J. H. Dedrick, September 23.

1864: 3—A. S. Gilchrist, October 22. 9—August Prince, September 22. 21—A. Lawson, October 3. 25—T. Schmidt.

1865: 5—August McAchrin, July 18. 7—F. H. Wedstrand, March 22. 11—John Link, October 28. 23—Joseph Steffis, August 4. 27—Henry Kersch, August 15. 33—R. J. Parker, January 30.

1866: 13—Paul Fredericks, February 21.

1867: 11—Jacob Abel, December 19. 21—T. Wren, April 13.

1868: 6—John Allen, January 1; L. Ryan, January 1. 14—F. Silegren, December 17; John Weller, December 17. 22—K. Dorff, December 17.

1869: 6—Thomas Hopkins, January 1. 21—Peter Barrington, June 14. 22—G. Marshall, January 6; John Steffis, July 8. 28—R. O. Cady, July 8. 34—William McPherson, January 6; M. Otten, January 6.

1870: 12—J. Q. A. Braden, May 20. 15—J. T. G. January 22. 23—N. Orth, November 21. 25—Jacob Orth, January 12.

1871: 10—F. M. Elletson, January 5. 22—P. Cunningham, January 5. 28—G. W. McInturf, January 5.

1872: 16—S. E. Adams, April 19. 27—G. Pohl, July 8. 28—LaFayette McInturf, February 23.

1873: 11—P. F. Ayder, November 5.

1874: 16—S. E. Adams, July 17. 21—T. Wren, March 2.

1875: 21—W. H. Cady, February 19. 35—N. Schug, January 24.

1876: 4—A. Grant, February 22. 21—J. F. G. Ordorff, January 5. 25—T. Schmidt, May 8.

1878: 5—George Covart, February 27.

1879: 35—Sarah Cannon, March 31.

**Township 120, Range 26 (sections 19 to 36, inclusive, Chatham).**

The first claim in this part of the Congressional township was entered in 1857. The one who filed that year was John F. Foster, who on October 22 filed on the northwest quarter of section 20. Those who filed in 1858 were: 20—J. F. Foster, October 22. 11—S. P. Lowell, October 12. 13—Sarah Murphy, October 21; Timothy Lowell, August 22.

1859: 19—Allen D. Libby, September 26. 24—M. S. Calkins, January 3. 30—J. B. Archambault, October 26.

1860: 23—D. L. Calkins, October 19. 24—Heirs of William Blakely, October 6. 25—M. U. Tubbs, October 19. 34—B. Ambler, November 8.

1861: 24—S. Varner, October 22; A. Boroman, October 22. 26—William Sullivan, November 5.

1862: 22—A. Erath, Jr., February 7.

1864: 35—J. Armstrong, November 15.

1865: 24—P. L. Dudley, July 15.

1868: 25—William Mann, April 21. 26—A. Munding, October 26; W. Rettick, December 27. 28—J. Mara, July 15; James Clary, July 15; D. Murphy, December 17; S. Chamberlain, December 17; J. Moore, July 15.

1869: 20—J. E. Elsonpeter, December 7. 22—J. H. Elsonpeter, December 7. 32—James Nugent, December 7. 33—G. Hong, August 28.

1870: 30—W. P. Jewette, October 20; J. B. Archambault, October 20. 34—W. W. Washburne, October 1; Francis Berthiaume, October 3.

1871: F. Leak, February 1. 22—L. Lappin, December 1. 32—A. H. Heaton, February 27; J. G. Nugent, April 11; John C. Nugent, April 11. 34—H. Erath, April 11.

1872: 22—W. H. Cochrane, March 22. 27—W. Rettesch, June 22. 34—J. Sobie, August 14.

1873: 32—B. Peltier, May 27.

1875: 27—James Mara, June 5.

1876: 21—John Sullivan, February 24. 33—J. C. Nugent, May 12; I. Gutzweller, September 2. 36—E. F. Drake, June 27.

1877: 35—Joseph Armstrong, April 27.

**Township 120, Range 26 (Sections 1 to 18, Inclusive, Maple Lake).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 9—Boyd W. Purdy, October 20; Trott Smith, October 20.

Those who filed in 1858 were: 1—Henry F. Robinson, July 6. 2—John M. Carrier, July 6; Thomas Sexton, August 21; Timothy Flanigan, January 1. 8—Patrick Flarity, December 14. 9—Michal Welton, December 14; William Welton, December 14. 10—Henry McLane, October 7. 15—Charles Woodbury, May 27; John W. Phillips, July 21. 17—William Elsenpeter, January 12.

1859: 4—J. E. Lewis, February 28; A. Ormsbee, February 6. 11—C. McCarty, August 6. 13—S. L. Fillmore, January 1. 14—J. Shatter, September 6.

1860: 3—G. Hamilton, July 13. 6—E. O'Brien, September 20; James Madigan, September 20. 13—P. Carr, October 9; G. Hays, October 26. 14—J. Grieve, February 21.

1861: 4—G. Hamilton, September 30. 6—S. Clark, November 7. 8—T. Jude, July 1. 14—L. Laffin, May 2. 18—T. Gailey, December 18.

1862: 2—J. Vadner, February 17. 6—P. Butler, February 3. 8—T. Cadman, May 16.

1864: 3—C. B. Coleman, September 26.

1865: 7—P. Flaherty, April 29.

1866: 15—G. Marti, June 1.

1868: 2—T. Flanningan, January 1. 10—J. Harrington, January 1; J. Sullivan, June 6. 12—D. Sheehan, January 1; D. Mullen, January 1. 18—O. Dailey, July 15; H. Hinterthur, October 6.

1869: 8—R. Jude, February 6. 12—T. Jude, January 1; E. Flynn, May 18. 14—J. Elsenpeter, December 7.

1870: 1—T. Hopkins, March 9. 4—D. C. McCrory, April 27.

1871: 10—M. Murphey, October 10. 23—J. Kotilineck, April 28.

1872: 16—A. W. Hoar, December 28. 17—P. Flaharty, February 7.

1873: 11—M. Foran, September 30.

1874: 7—J. Maroney, July 17. 17—P. Welton, January 6.

1875: 18—O. Dailey, July 15.

1876: 4—W. G. McCrorey, February 3.

1877: 11—C. Elsenpeter, May 2.

**Township 120, Range 27 (Albion).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1858. Those who filed that year were: 10—Patrick Golden, February 24. 27—S. S. Titus, June 29; Jane Titus, June 29; Henry H. Titus, June 29.

28—George Hunter, September 3; L. D. Manly, September 3.  
34—A. Hobson, May 17.

1859: 4—J. G. McChesney, April 28; Robert McChesney, April 28. 26—Charles Judson, April 19.

1860: 14—J. P. Bosworth, October 24. 18—James Curtis. 22—John Rogers, June 10. 26—Joseph Dupre, February 12.

1866: 15—Jerome Mangan, August 12.

1868: 9—Minnesota Land Company, April 30; R. S. Holmes, September 25. 20—A. J. Phillips, May 26. 30—Peter Morris, December 16.

1869: 14—L. Daggert, February 6.

1870: 1—G. Holmes, May 12. 2—A. R. Russell, September 9. 6—L. R. Allen, October 6. 8—J. Porter, October 6. 11—John Holmes, May 12. 14—F. La Cross, September 1. 19—David Dykeman, October 12. 20—S. Libbey, October 6. 30—M. Palla, August 22; Andrew F. Morris, August 22.

1871: 8—V. E. Friend, December 11; L. Lambert, June 22; James Knotts, June 22; John Chevalier. 19—A. Fashont, June 7. 24—J. Archambault, December 1; William Man, December 1. 30—Paul Schmidt, December 22.

1872: 18—George Eagy, November 19. 24—P. Smith, February 25; James Donahue, December 2; B. McKeag, March 12. 25—John Smith, December 9. 30—J. Paket, March 12.

1873: 6—A. De Chaney, October 28; Peter De Caney, October 28; Jacob Lombert, October 28.

1874: 3—A. R. Russell, July 27. 19—George Morris, September 18. 26—C. Gilligon, March 5; John Wolf, March 4. 30—I. Rahmme, August 31. 34—John Buckman, March 4; William Buckman, March 4. 35—Charles Buckman.

1875: 18—J. Bonanue, July 20.

1876: 12—J. F. Spencer, February 17; A. Bullock, February 17. 19—J. Rohier, March 9. 33—M. Burchett, October 2; J. A. Johnson, September 23; William Warrock, October 7.

1877: 19—A. Fashout, March 28.

1878: 19—Paul Coshin, October 23. 33—G. W. Barley, August 30.

**Township 120, Range 28 (French Lake).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1860. Those who filed that year were: 10—Thomas O. Laughlin, June 6. 12—James Grimes, September 22; C. Grimes, September 22. 14—Hannah O. Laughlin, July 7. 15—Ernest Howart, October 27.

1862: 22—G. Mathewson, April 11.

1866: 13—J. Chevalier, February 14. 15—Antone Guntire, October 12; P. Rasseau, October 5.

1868: 4—D. Mulqueeney, June 26. 10—M. C. O. Donohue, February 21. 24—A. McDonald, June 19.

1869: 2—Mary Brown, March 23.



1870: 4—S. M. Dorman, October 16. 12—J. Meloin, October 6. 24—D. McDonald, April 26; Margaret O. Shea, October 6; P. Kennedy, October 6. 26—F. G. Foster, December 14.

1872: 15—P. Charlet, January 2. 34—C. A. Reed, September 25; C. A. Pauley, October 17; J. G. Bogar, October 17.

1873: 2—John Proctor, February 17. 4—J. Blackburn. 12—J. Capeon, April 11. 26—D. Dykeman, July 10; J. Z. Cochran, August 1; A. Peinceince, November 15; F. B. Ide, March 28. 32—J. F. Sunden, October 23; C. F. Straw, October 22. 34—T. D. Groves, July 1; J. Ditty.

1874: 2—P. O'Laughlin, March 18; P. Shorry, April 18; J. Hartnett, February 2. 3—P. Mooney, January 6. 14—J. O'Laughlin, February 2. 18—L. Borg, October 22. 20—J. Jackson, October 20; J. L. Lundberg, June 22; N. Nilsson, June 22; O. Peterson, March 20; P. E. Oslund, March 18. 28—J. Morris, May 20; O. Nystrom, October 20; G. Jansson, March 17; O. Anderson, March 17. 30—P. Skoog, October 20; E. E. Oslund, June 22; J. Ash, March 18; O. Palmquist, March 20. 32—J. Lonsdin, March 18. 33—J. Carlson, July 31. 34—S. Reed, July 14.

1875: 2—M. Murray, February 17. 20—S. Lingblod, March 18. 28—A. Lind, January 1; J. Jonson, October 5. 30—E. Peterson, October 6. 32—P. J. Bjorklund, October 5; C. J. Anderson, October 5. 34—F. Guin, January 1.

1876: 2—M. Murray, February 17. 19—I. Gutzweiler, Jr., November 27; L. G. Pendergast, May 19. 27—E. Boxell, March 24. 29—P. Westtund, March 21. 33—J. Johnson, October 3; L. Harrington, December 18; B. Thurstenson, September 1; O. Swenson, April 30.

1877: 19—N. Nilson, March 10. 21—Ole Dohlgren, February 6. 23—P. Norberg, October 31. 27—C. Isaacson, March 17; A. Corbin, August 7. 29—P. Skoog, April 3. 31—H. Mattson, December 28; W. R. Merriman, January 29. 33—C. J. Johnson, January 30.

1878: 25—J. F. Chevalier, December 18. 31—J. Floren, February 12; E. J. Anderson, April 25. 33—T. Anderson, July 24.

1879: 19—N. Nelson, February 20. 30—K. Johnson, April 1. 33—J. Morris, January 23.

**Township 121, Range 28 (Southside).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 9—A. A. Dean, August 27. 10—A. Montgomery, August 27. 13—Julia Prescott, June 23; L. Dumaree, June 27. 14—J. S. Abell, October 2. 24—L. Dumaree, June 23. 27—C. H. Rogers, October 21. 29—A. J. Brackett, November 6.

1858: 10—N. Bryon, January 7. 14—J. B. Mayhew, September 8. 15—D. G. Keefe, June 7. 21—S. H. Lee, April 1. 22—William Vonderlinde, November 27; J. C. Dunn, February 27. 24—W. Warren, November 27.

1859: 4—V. W. Olds, June 24; J. S. Noyes, October 21. 8—Cyrus Root, May 28.

1860: 4—Town of Fair Haven, June 28. 10—A. Nelson. 20—J. W. Gondes, November 3.

1861: 20—John S. Weigond, July 12.

1862: 10—H. S. Bowen, February 3.

1864: 28—W. A. Smith, November 18; J. G. Smith, November 18.

1866: 18—H. G. Root, July 22.

1867: 26—John Shaffner, April 26. 30—A. Kilborn, August 14. 14—C. A. Robinson, October 18.

1868: 12—J. R. Robinson, September 8; J. S. Noyes, September 8. 24—W. Warren, November 27. 30—H. L. Gordon, July 23.

1869: 10—T. J. Woodward, October 1. 20—H. L. Gordon, March 13. 24—Charles Dally, March 9.

1870: 13—Isabelle Mayhew, November 23. 20—J. Koekler, November 29. 21—Abel Lombert, July 19; J. Krantz, August 26. 34—P. Gould, June 24.

1871: 2—A. W. Tucker, June 27. 8—William M. Tietjen, September 24. 15—John Howard, March 11. 20—H. L. Gordon, January 2. 22—C. W. Partridge, August 22; Levi Rudolph, May 31. 23—A. Banon. 26—M. Haywood, February 27. 28—John Cooper, January 27. 34—J. Gould, July 11; A. P. Layton.

1872: 18—E. S. Shupe, August 29. 23—James Davis, May 14.

1873: 8—T. Ewing, November 18.

1874: 8—W. M. Hathaway, October 12. 30—J. Goble, October 12; J. S. Bower, October 12.

1875: 8—J. N. Brown, October 25. 13—S. B. Hoyt, October 24. 26—S. A. Gordon, February 12.

1877: 24—N. Dally, October 30. 30—Edward Marquett, December 4.

**Township 121, Range 27 (Corinna).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 4—Alvin Wilkins, September 6; O. W. Butler, August 17; O. W. Butler, Jr., August 17. 5—O. W. Butler, Jr., August 17. 9—William B. Gordon, August 31. 15—Patrick Doiley, December 8. 17—Elijah Doble, September 16. 19—Elijah Doble, September 16. 20—Elijah Doble, May 7. 22—Patrick Dailey, December 8. 26—William Qurik, December 6. 27—C. E. Barber, October 10. 34—John W. Rude, September 26; Charles G. Barber, October 18.

1858. 4—Z. A. Luce, May 14. 10—D. Sharp, August 4; M. J. Hall, April 21. 12—H. B. Smith, June 21. 14—James Ahearn, July 24. 22—J. Farrel, September 2. 23—P. Prescott, January 6. 25—P. Prescott, January 6. 26—P. Prescott, January 6.

27—J. Farrell, September 11. 28—P. Prescott, April 10; Louis Dumarce, April 1. 29—Julia Prescott, April 29; L. T. Prescott, April 1. 1—James Wilcox, May 14; John Fenklepaugh, September 29; H. Ripley, June 4.

1859: 18—J. F. Doble, April 22.

1860: 8—O. Longworth, October 10. 18—F. Teates, October 3. 24—Thomas Mulholland, June 15.

1861: 2—J. Maxwell, October 1. 4—Henry Sherwing and William Dixon, May 4. 12—John Morris, November 12. 20—E. Doble, May 7.

1862: 12—A. Andrews, March 13.

1863: 28—M. H. Harmon, July 24.

1864: 22—John Townsend, December 19.

1865: 9—C. M. Gordon, July 5; H. L. Gordon, June 29. 10—H. Wiegand, September 21. 12—J. and F. Marion, October 28. 20—M. Ranson, February 15. 21—Levi Dakin, August 25; Charles Darkin, September 18. 22—W. B. Gordon, October 2; E. J. Hordon, December 4. 28—L. H. Reynolds, October 6. 30—L. G. Burr, November 10. 32—E. Kavonaugh, August 12.

1866: 10—H. Schaum, May 5; E. Whitlock, June 5.

1867: 9—Thomas Mulholland, February 2. 15—David Heberling, June 11.

1868: 14—W. W. Day, March 19. 18—C. G. Campbell, July 3; M. S. Harrimon, September 8. 20—M. Ranson, February 15; N. Ziegler, June 8. 24—C. G. Combell, September 25; W. A. French, November 28. 30—L. Doble, September 8; J. U. Pratt, September 8.

1869: 8—O. Longworth, February 23. 9—C. Lott, May 22. 14—Charles Bryant, July 22. 19—F. Teats, September 30. 30—M. Townsend, November 13.

1870: 15—George Kulmley, November 24. 17—L. H. Dakin, November 3. 19—M. S. Harriman, January 12. 26—Robert Albertheny, June 24. 32—Ira Winget, March 22. 32—John A. Bury, November 29.

1871: 15—George Kulmley, August 24. 17—John Townsendy, January 16; M. Ronson. 28—W. H. Warner, July 10. 34—W. Rogers, March 13; Sarah Rogers, March 13.

1872: 6—Fred Carr, July 31. 16—L. H. Reynolds, March 18. 30—S. B. Towle, January 13. 32—W. H. Towle, January 13.

1873: 4—Catharine Lott, December 20. 9—C. M. Gordon, March 5. 13—G. T. Pullen, July 9. 14—C. Pullen, February 18. 26—D. T. Allen, March 12. 28—W. Hall, September 27.

1874: 15—A. Kulmley, February 28.

1875: 11—Anthony Heneremon, November 3.

1876: 9—H. L. Gordon, September 6. 11—J. A. Boohite, October 26; Robert Barthweiler, October 26.

1878: 5—W. W. Longworth, February 5. 7—W. W. Longworth, February 5. 9—H. Everson, March 13. 28—E. Bartlett, February 8.

1882: 6—W. W. Longworth, April 20.

**Township 121, Range 26, Sections 1 to 18, Inclusive (Silver Creek).** The first claim in this part of the township was filed by Henry D. Wood, who, on December 22, 1858, secured a claim in sections 5 and 6.

1859: 9—Ira H. Stockwell, December 8. 17—James W. Hamilton, April 22.

1860: 5—Elizer Hibbard, October 9; James Hibbard, October 9. 6—John McIntosh, May 29; E. J. Lambert, May 14. 7—W. Walker, September 9. 8—Moses L. Ridley, October 29. 10—Jacob Ertel, November 15. 13—John W. Patterson, August 31; Jackson J. Smith, April 30. 14—John W. Patterson, August 31; Conrad Schomber, November 3.

1864: 15—John Marekart, September 29; G. Martie, October 22; Frederic Hitter, September 16.

1865: 5—Benjamin Wakefield, August 19. 7—Paul Kannady, July 28; J. B. Walker, August 19. 8—H. E. Ridley, October 29. 9—Salsbury Rowell, November 17.

1866: 5—F. L. Porter, July 26.

1867: 15—John Goltz, April 29.

1868: 6—Levi M. Gaskill, March 19; E. J. Lambert, May 14; Abram Simmons, October 3. 8—J. S. Loeki, July 3; George Coombs, May 19. 14—E. Holcher, April 18. 18—Daniel McKinzie, July 3; John Allen, October 3.

1869: 8—Levi Drew, June 15.

1870: 4—E. B. Rowell, January 25. 12—M. A. Bailey, May 30; Ira C. Wade, May 30. 18—Jacob J. Colvin, October 8.

1871: 2—Jonsen Olof, August 26.

1873: 2—John G. Baker, December 1. 4—William Parker, January 25. 5—P. Swab, December 18. 15—G. Martie, February 3. 18—A. R. Ridley, January 18; N. W. S. Day, January 18.

1874: 10—G. A. Deisler, November 16; Jacob Flakuger, October 30. 17—Charles H. Bryant, June 19.

1875: 14—Valentine Gores, June 9.

1876: 2—Andrew Thurstenson, November 10; Ole Anderson, November 10; Ole Oleson, November 10; Andrew Erickson, October 31; J. Swenson, October 2; T. Spence, November 12. 9—A. H. Braat, March 21.

1877: 4—Joseph N. Lock, April 14. 9—Peter Meyet, July 17. 14—Gatlieb Gerenbeek.

1879. 2—O. Johnson, March 31. 12—Julius Planer, March 31.

**Township 121, Range 26, Sections 19 to 36, Inclusive (Maple Lake).** The first claims in this half of Congressional township were entered in 1859: 20—Nancy S. Taylor, April 22. 23—



Phillip Schwab, January 11. 24—Ernest Thomas, March 31. 25—Abby Russell, June 22; Eza McIntire, September 7. 26—Unborn Anselman, September 5; H. Carnes, May 25. 27—George Anshutz, September 5. 34—James E. Somers, May 4.

1860: 20—S. H. Roads, September 21; Jacob Ertel, November 3. 22—Henry Ertel, November 3; Michael Mickel, October 2; James Thomann, April 18. 23—H. Meier, September 16. 24—Jacob Ertel, November 15; C. M. Otto, October 9. 28—Jacob Ertel, November 15; James Butler, November 13. 30—Jacob Ertel, November 15. 33—Heirs of G. D. Morgan, June 22; Town Council of Maple Lake, October 29; P. Woodling, October 30. 34—S. H. Morgan, June 22. 35—L. B. Wade, June 22.

1861: 22—Martin Kotilinek, July 19. 24—S. A. Hibbard, April 3. 32—L. Holgate, October 22; Michael Madden, September 26. 34—Albert Bridges, May 12.

1862: 30—Patrick Butler, February 8. 32—M. Mooney, February 11.

1863: 20—Henry Angel, April 19. 30—B. Connick, April 9.

1864: 21—W. Volk, October 10. 26—George Dengel, May 25. 27—G. Grest, October 10. 32—Patrick Connole, November 19. 35—Joseph Rockliff, September 26.

1865: 32—L. Holgate, November 1.

1866: 27—John Calpin, September 25; James Calpin, September 25. 30—S. Shepard, May 7. 31—Asa Connick, July 19; Ernest Lahy, November 30. 36—Timothy Desmond, Jr., December 7.

1867: 31—Patrick O'Loughlin, December 18.

1868: 21—Herman Blume, May 29. 28—Casper Ritzell, June 25. 32—Patrick Butler, June 30. 34—John Hamilton, June 5.

1870: 26—Martin H. Sprague, June 5.

1872: 21—John Kotilineck, August 26. 23—John Kotilineck, August 26.

1873: 33—John Ward, May 29.

1875: 24—John Goalz, June 9.

**Township 121, Range 25 (Monticello).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 3—Sarah Beekman, June 30; Samuel Wilder, June 30; William M. Corey, June 30; William Brown, June 10, 1857. 4—James Mealey, December 23; Samuel Wilder, June 30; Frederick T. Barker, July 30; Abraham G. Descent, June 2. 5—William S. Brookins, July 24; David H. Downer, August 30. 6—William E. Griffith, June 12; Joseph Hostler, June 22; William S. Brookins, July 24. 7—Daniel Worthing, June 23; William S. Brookins, July 24; Joseph Hostler, June 22; William S. Randall, June 27; Lawrenza Flanders, July 13; Elisha Stiles, June 27. 8—Abram G. Descent, June 2; A. W. Wood, June 27; Jonathan G. Smith, June 18; William S. Brookins, July 24; Daniel Worthing,

June 23; Elisha Stiles, June 27; Henry M. Hartwell, June 23; Jonathan G. Smith, June 18; John D. Taylor, June 23. 9—Samuel T. Creighton, May 27; Row Brasie, June 23; O. A. Smith, June 18; Jonathan G. Smith, June 18; John D. Taylor, June 23; William H. St. Clair, June 23. 10—William Brown, June 10; Joseph N. Barber, June 11; Samuel T. Creighton, May 27; Elisha H. Ledue, William H. St. Clair, June 25. 11—Stephen J. Mason, June 12. 13—Delos C. Wells, July 31; William Chandler, June 16; Henry H. Helm, June 16; Joel M. Town, June 15; James F. Bradley, June 12. 14—Joseph W. Walker, June 12; Hiram Nickerson, June 12; Nathan Fletcher, June 22; George W. Knowlton, October 20; Joel M. Town, June 15. 15—John Everitt, July 16; Martin Fox, June 10; Dudley P. Jordon. 17—John D. Taylor, June 23; Abraham W. Wood, June 23; August Geisman, October 21; William Hamilton, August 14. 18—Lorenzo Flowers, Herman C. Coolbaugh, July 17. 19—Andrew B. Benson, July 16; Harry Ely, June 12. 20—William Hamilton, August 14; Daniel Hanaford, June 29. 21—John Whitecomb, June 30; Joseph W. Hanaford, June 29; David Hanaford, June 29; Samuel Houlton, July 6; John C. Howe. 22—Samuel Houlton, July 6. 23—Harrison Perkins, October 16; Samuel Bennett, September 15. 24—James F. Bradley, June 12; Henry Whitney, December 29; Henry Kries, September 15; J. L. Jordon, September 18; Samuel Bennett, September 15; Charles O. Whitney, December 29. 25—Charles O. Whitney, December 29; Joseph F. Lewis, October 7; Theodore Brown, August 27. 26—Samuel Bennett, September 15; Harrison Perkins, October 16; Joseph Brown, July 6; John F. Gallow, June 10. 27—Joseph Brown, July 6; Henry Perkins, October 16; Ira Hoar, October 16. 28—John C. Howe, August 22; Augustus Mitchell, June 30. 29—Augustus Mitchell, June 30; Martin V. B. Height, July 13. 30—John C. Bailey, August 18. 31—Stephen W. Packard, June 25; Joseph Lee, September 18. 32—Charles W. Wedgwood, June 25; Allen J. Sawyer, June 25; Ambrose Bryant, June 25; Joseph Lee, September 28; Alfred Stewart, June 25. 33—Heirs of Arthur Smith, June 25; Albert W. Barston, June 25; Daniel G. Sawyer, June 25; Ambrose Bryant, June 25; Alfred Stewart, June 25. 34—Ira Hoar, October 16; Alfred W. Hoar, July 6. 35—Merrill D. Hall, August 7.

1858: 3—E. W. Merrill, May 21. 4—E. W. Merrill, May 21. 15—W. O. Knight. 19—George Lowry, March 15. 20—George W. M. Drake, May 17; Harriet Felix, April 20; A. B. Hanaford, May 10. 21—A. B. Hanaford, May 10. 22—Charles B. Whitecomb, October 30. 23—George Brown, May 6. 26—George Brown, May 6; N. B. Steele, September 17. 28—Ralph Voorhees, June 9; James M. Voorhees, March 4. 30—George Lowry, March 15; John Morgan, July 5. 33—Joseph Stewart, May 17. 35—N. B. Steel, September 15.

1859: 5—David H. Downer, August 30. 8—David H. Downer, August 30. 10—Jonathan Stinson, September 9. 15—Jonathan Stinson, September 9. 16—John Hamilton, September 30. 17—George M. Bertram, June 10. 20—George M. Bertram, June 10. 21—John Hamilton, September 30. 23—Joseph Perkins, October 27.

1860: 4—John B. Rich, October 9; Isaac W. Garcelon, May 30; William Murch, November 4. 5—Thomas Murray, October 9; William Murch, November 24; Barker Bailey, October 5. 6—Barber Bailey, October 5. 12—A. C. Riggs, June 27. 13—T. G. Mealey, October 9. 16—Alexander Mitchell, October 5; Bradley Bailey. 17—George W. Hamilton, September 22. 18—Frederick Dressler, March 13; George W. Hamilton, September 22. 22—A. Nickerson, October 8; W. E. Wedgewood, October 8; Charles Whitney, October 10; C. G. Boyd, October 8. 23—J. Perkins, January 23; Charles Whitney, January 10. 25—James Stokes, October 9. 26—Levi Walden, October 8; A. C. Fairbrother, October 12. 27—C. S. Boyd, October 8; W. E. Wedgewood, October 8; Royal Marsh, October 8. 28—W. E. Wedgewood, October 8; O. Prescott, September 27. 29—Horace Randall, September 27; George B. Wedgewood, October 13. 30—Patrick Desmond, October 8; Timothy Desmond, October 13. 31—Betsey Baston, February 2. 32—Patrick Desmond, October 8. 34—S. Walker, October 13; S. Corliss, October 12. 35—A. C. Fairbrother, October 12; Levi Walden, October 8.

1861: 11—Town of Monticello, April 20; Town of Moritzius, April 18. 12—Town of Moritzius, April 18.

1862: 18—Jackson J. Smith, December 31.

1864: 20—N. P. Clark, February 6. 34—A. W. and W. H. Hoar, July 5.

1865: 31—Margaret O'Neil, January 12.

1870: 18—Jackson J. Smith, May 30. 30—Jerry Desmond, December 19.

1871: 18—Jackson J. Smith, November 22.

1872: 18—William O. Knight, January 3. 24—John Patterson, July 9.

1873: 6—Jonathan Crawford, June 20; S. Sykes, June 20; Martin Lord, June 26.

1874: 6—William Murray, January 2; James Edmunds, May 20. 35—J. Weiben, December 15.

1875: 20—John Geiser, November 10. 32—August Mabias, December 14.

1876: 30—Tim Desmond, Jr., July 28.

**Township 121, Range 24, Fractional Township (Monticello).** The first claim in this part of the Congressional township was entered on section 4, by Benjamin Bursley in 1855. Those entered in 1856 were: 7—James C. Beekman, August 29; Richard Allen,

July 25; Abner St. Cyr. 17—Thomas O. Nevers, July 25. 18—James C. Beekman, August 29. 19—Samuel W. Fuller, June 10; Alonzo Peck, December 27; Henry W. Fuller, October 7; John W. Copeland, June 10. 20—Thomas O. Nevers, July 25; Samuel W. Fuller, June 10; Thomas Elsworth, August 5; Simon Fobes, June 10.

1857: 7—B. F. Ellis, June 21; J. N. Riggs, June 19; B. Bur-  
sley, August 4; H. Crawford, January 10. 18—C. Davis and W.  
Davis, August 26; D. Rosenburg, March 10. 19—E. H. Lord,  
March 17. 20—John Crawford, January 10.

1859: 7—T. Snow, October 6.

1860: 30—C. C. Chase, November 16.

1868: 32—C. Orth, October 26; John Arnold, February 17.

1871: 28—Charles Shallifoo, November 14.

1874: 33—Mrs. Joseph File, November 4.

**Township 121, Range 24, Fractional Township (Otsego).** The first claims in this part of the Congressional township were entered in 1856. Those who filed that year were: 13—Caroline E. Buel, July 16; George W. Barnes, June 14. 14—William B. Mabie, June 27; John S. Leyerly, December 11; Obodish Inseho, June 27; Nelson Demick, November 13. 15—E. K. Harper, July 31; Andrew J. Hoyt, July 31. 22—A. J. Hoyt, July 31; Leonard Choate, November 3; William Mathews, November 3. 23—John M. Snow, July 31. 24—George W. Barnes, June 14. 27—L. W. Hamlin, September 26. 34—O. H. Porter, December 8.

1857: 23—Theodore L. Page, March 27; C. C. Bicknell, March 21. 24—John A. Combs, June 13; Richard Davis, April 27; L. D. Allen, July 20. 25—William Wind, March 24; Alexander H. Morrison, May 28; John C. Morrison, August 26; John C. Flemming, March 24. 26—Hudson A. Gaskill, Jr., March 25; Julius J. Brown, October 9; Arthur Douglas, June 26; John Peck, March 25. 27—Henry D. Southard, October 27; Samuel M. Hammons, January 27. 35—John N. Morris, April 23; Charles F. Seatney, August 3; Adam Steinberg, December 9.

1859: 10—Tileston Snow, October 6. 15—Hiram Harper, October 6.

1860: 10—William Shelefoo, October 16. 13—David L. Ingersoll, November 13; Andrew J. Hubbard, September 12; James McDermid, November 13. 15—Dana Hamlet, November 20. 22—O. M. Washburne, November 23. 23—John W. Washburne, November 20. 24—James McDermid, November 23. 35—Peter Jilles, September 28.

1871: 34—Peter Columbus, November 14.

1874: 22—Joseph K. Clark, March 2.

**Township 121, Range 23 (Otsego).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1856. Those who filed that year were: 15—George T. Vail, May 31; David McPherson,



May 15. 17—John McDonald, Sr., June 19; Belinda Spencer, June 19; Charles T. Snow, June 25. 18—Israel Record, December 18. 19—Henry Heap, June 23. 20—John McDonald, Jr., October 20; Charles T. Snow, June 25; William P. Gerry, June 23. 21—Dennis W. Carpenter, June 21; Caleb Chase, June 2. 22—L. Carrack, July 18; John Carrack, September 5; Louis Osier, October 17; John Papa, May 26; David Corbin, October 16; Charles Le Plant, May 26. 23—L. Carrack, July 18; John Carrack, September 5; Charles Le Plant, May 26. 25—C. W. Kelley, December 13. 26—Enos Doney, July 23; Thomas Newman, December 13; C. W. Kelley, December 23. 27—Redman Field, September 5; Benjamin Gray, September 5. 28—A. N. Chase, July 9; Cabel Chase, June 2. 29—William B. Gerry, June 23; John J. Everitt, July 5; Mark G. Chase, July 10. 30—Henry Heap, June 23; John P. Shumway, July 11. 31—E. W. Sweet, July 10; William Brown, October 10; John Humal, October 8. 34—James Godfrey, July 23; Charles Williams, December 8. 35—C. W. Kelley, December 13; Thomas Williams, December 13; Charles Williams, December 8; L. D. Babcock, July 24.

1857: 15—S. S. Carrack. 16—Luman Cooley, July 17; Alva L. Cooley, July 17. 17—Joshua Welsh, March 5. 18—Winthrop Davis, March 27; George A. Patten, March 24; Thomas Ham, August 5; Joel Haskell, April 7. 19—Joel Haskell, April 7; Thomas Ham, August 5; Ezra Craft, May 28; S. Porter, July 23. 20—Phillip Boyden, June 10; John D. Copp, June 10. 21—William D. Carsley, March 6; William F. Barnard, June 4. 25—Oliver H. Kelley, May 4. 26—Argules Bartlett, May 4; Adam Wood, January 15. 27—Argules Bartlett, May 4; Benjamin Bartlett, March 21. 28—Frederick Worcester, July 16; Asa H. Jacobs, July 11. 29—John L. Copp, June 10; Phillip Boyden, June 10; Patrick Smullen, March 20. 30—Miles G. Pratt, April 6; Moses L. Ridley, June 17; Seneca Porter, July 23; George E. Goodrich, March 28. 31—Moses L. Ridley, June 17; Miles G. Pratt, April 6; George E. Goodrich, March 28. 32—Patrick Smullen, March 20; Jefferson Osborn, April 13; David A. Davis. 33—Asa H. Jacobs, July 11; Frederick Worcester, July 16; David A. Davis, April 13. 34—George W. Carrack, September 2; John Baker, May 16. 35—Adam Wood, January 15. 36—Oliver H. Kelley, May 4; John K. Ayd, May 1; Nathan Hall, May 4.

1858: 34—Clark Haley, February 24.

1859: 8—Dudley P. Chase, July 8. 21—Dudley P. Chase, July 8.

1860: 7—Caleb C. Chase, November 16. 15—Caleb C. Chase, November 16; William E. Corey, November 16; John A. Mallett, November 16. 18—David L. Ingersoll, November 23; Samuel Adams, November 20; Luther E. Tubbs, November 23. 19—Luther E. Tubbs, November 23; Samuel Adams, November 20. 22—

John E. Mallett, November 16. 29—Henry Bradley, November 23. 33—Albert F. Baker, November 16; Martha Snow, November 26.

1869: 34—James Easter, July 8.

1871: 27—Mrs. Eliza E. Stearns, July 17.

1873: 27—William Thorpe, February 1. 33—Gilbert F. Smith, September 12.

**Township 122, Range 27 (Clearwater).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 1—F. P. Robinson, August 4; Horace Webster, August 7. Rebecca Wheelon, July 31; W. H. Fisher, August 20. 2—F. P. Robinson, August 4; Artemus Stevens, July 2; Town Council Fremont City, August 8; B. H. Luce, September 2. 3—Town Council Fremont City, August 26; James Crombell, July 2; H. McCrory, July 2. 10—J. L. Chase, September 29; Abel Kent, September 8; Emma C. K. Stevenson, September 8; Henry Townsend, June 22; L. Loughton, August 31. 11—A. T. Boyington, August 7; Charles Folsom, September 7; Solomon Thorlonder, July 12; E. H. Whitney, August 22; Albert F. Matzky, August 6. 12—W. H. Fisk, August 20; Elias Cowon; Horace Webster, August 7; A. T. Boyington, August 7; Samuel A. Hurd, December 5. 13—Samuel A. Hurd, December 5; Nelson C. Draper, July 15; Samuel A. Hurd, December 5; Elisha Cowon, July 22; George R. Fuller, October 8. 14—A. F. Matzky, October 6; E. H. Whitney, August 22; Albert Hogemon, July 20; L. Loughton, August 31. 15—L. Loughton, August 31; A. W. Williams, July 25. 21—George W. McCrory, July 28. 26—I. H. Bates, July 25. 28—T. B. Titus. 33—F. Kothmon, September 24. 34—M. H. Goodman, September 21; F. Kothmon, September 24. 35—James A. Thurlough, September 21.

1858: 3—F. M. Cadwell, October 13. 10—N. L. Loughton, October 13; F. M. Cadwell, October 13. 11—F. M. Cadwell, October 13. 12—W. W. Webster, June 2. 15—O. Laughton, October 26. 22—S. N. Nixon, November 13. 24—Thomas Tollington, June 17; G. W. Canney, May 17. 27—James E. Spencer, May 10. 33—G. C. Marshall, October 30.

1859: 12—James Stevenson, May 30. 14—J. N. Laughton, September 21. 15—O. Hyatt, June 7. 15—J. N. Laughton, September 21; James Lee, September 20. 24—E. Grant, June 25.

1860: 2—J. Evans, October 13. 11—Heirs of R. H. Kirk, October 12. 13—G. B. Bradbury, July 21. 21—Cyrus Smith, October 13. 23—James Maxwell, September 24. 27—C. A. Wiegond, February 13; James Conly. 28—Louis Wiegond, October 13; C. A. Wiegond, February 13. 22—Thomas Murphy, October 16.

1861: 32—Jennie L. Knickerbocker, February 5.

1862: 26—J. P. Bosworth, September 22.

- 1863: 32—C. Dalley, April 29.  
 1865: 26—William Johnson, March 3.  
 1866: 27—D. Connell, December 22.  
 1867: 21—John M. Mitchell, October 26. 28—Joseph Ponsford, March 13.  
 1868: Herman Nickerbocker, August 5.  
 1869: 14—James Maxwell, September 6.  
 1870: 30—John Conoly.  
 1872: 14—William Dixon, April 12. 34—George Fetter, March 20.  
 1873: 22—W. J. Smith.  
 1874: 22—Isaac Philo, March 28. 26—R. J. Shannon, July 17. 34—Charles Valldey, November 17.  
 1875: 24—A. M. Connick, September 25; Hiram Connick, September 15; Nelson Sheldon, December 27. 26—R. Eccles, May 15.  
 1876: 23—Joseph Johnson, October 16; Nelson Sheldon, September 11; G. W. Trofton, November 16. 24—Richard Bell, June 17; John Dodds, March 4. 26—R. F. Anderson, August 28. 32—J. N. R. Rodgers, December 20.  
 1877: 23—S. Sheldon, April 24. 27—D. Connolly, April 26; 33—M. Murphy, March 28.  
 1879: 32—D. B. Knickerbocker, March 31.

**Township 122, Range 26 (Silver Creek and Clearwater).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 6—William H. Fish, August 20; Selah Markham, July 16. 7—Selah Markham, July 16; Charles F. Rugg, July 18; Elias Cowan, July 22. 8—John Oakes, September 1; W. Elmira Lowell, October 22. 9—W. Elmira Lowell, October 22. 13—J. Franklin Palmer, June 24. 14—Columbus C. Burns, June 24; Gideon Drake, June 24; J. Fletcher Palmer, June 24. 15—Gideon Drake, June 24; Franklin Wood, June 27; Wesley Drake, June 24. 17—W. Elmira Lowell, October 22; John Shaw, November 11; Amanzel D. Boyington, July 9; Isel E. Hulet, December 31. 18—Amanzel D. Boyington, July 9. 19—Amanzel D. Boyington, July 9; Charles F. Simms, October 22; Simon Ronkin, September 22. 20—Amanzel D. Boyington, July 9; Peter Rolf, August 31. 21—Nathaniel M. Prescott, July 16. 22—Wesley Drake, June 24; John Drake, June 24; Nathaniel M. Prescott, July 16; Richard P. J. Dumington, June 29; Felix Rice, June 29; Henry E. Stevens, September 4. 23—Eli U. McAllister, June 24. 24—John O. Haven, June 24; J. Franklin Palmer, June 24; George W. Brookins, September 12; Jonah B. Lock, June 24. 25—Joseph Brooks, June 24; Charles W. Esterbrook, June 24; Joel Haven, June 24; Charles H. Halkett, October 12; Thomas Melrose, August 7. 26—Joel Haven, June 24; Charles H. Halkett, October 12. 27—Henry E. Stevens, Septem-

ber 4; Felix Rice, June 29. 28—Thomas W. Sanborn, June 29; Louis C. Johnson, August 4; Samuel Harvey, August 31; Joshua B. Lowell, November 2; Daniel Barton, June 27. 29—Peter Rolf, August 31; Martin V. Bartrow, August 31; Isaac Van Horn, August 31; Donald McKenzie, August 12; Samuel Harvey, August 4; Joshua B. Lowell, November 2. 30—W. H. Cutting, April 9; Aaron Underwood, September 28; Martin V. Bartrow, January 21; Donald McKenzie, August 12. 31—Donald McKenzie, August 12. 32—Joshua B. Lowell, November 2; Isaac Von Horn, August 4; Donald McKenzie, August 12; John Parks, July 6. 33—Louis C. Johnson, August 4; Daniel Barton, June 27; Joshua B. Lowell, November 2; K. W. and E. G. E. Von Heckron, June 11. 36—Thomas Melrose, August 7.

1858: 5—James Shaw, June 21. 8—James Shaw, June 21. 17—Andrew E. Oakes, March 30. 19—Thomas Tollington, June 17. 20—James D. Shaw, March 11. 21—Joseph S. Lock, March 30. 23—Joseph I. Fisher, April 14. 26—Erik Johnson, June 24. 27—Albert Copley, May 7. 28—Joseph S. Lock, March 30. 30—George L. Fuller, May 10.

1859: 8—Robert Shaw, July 7. 14—William A. Mealey, June 8. 17—Robert Shaw, July 7. 19—Earl S. Pinkham, November 17. 25—Henry L. Glazier, August 22. 27—Ezra Landon, April 30.

1860: 7—William Vorse, September 19. 15—Chester Dunkler, October 13. 18—Daniel Bradbury, September 19; William Vorse, September 19; George B. Bradbury, January 31; Otis F. Bradbury, October 5. 21—A. Thrall, October 10. 29—Dexter Collins, October 4. 32—Henry Ferguson, October 4; John Parks, October 4; James Hibbard, October 4.

1861: 14—Christian Delinger, October 9.

1867: 33—K. W. and E. G. E. Von Hickron, June 11.

1868: 23—Joseph I. Fisher, April 14. 34—David Mathers, June 4.

1869: 34—Peter Putnam, September 28.

1871: 20—J. W. Johnson, May 3; Jessie Colby, May 4; Joshua Ferguson, June 8. 26—Errick Johnson (Jonsson), August 26. 34—Sanford Hopkins, February 22.

1872: 18—William Shaw, January 8. 20—Elkart Bowlby, June 18. 26—Jessie C. Grant, September 6.

1873: 34—Alfred L. Brown, September 5.

1874: 30—W. H. Cutting, April 9. 34—Thomas Maren, February 16; John W. Walker, February 14.

1876: 30—John Stewart, January 21. 35—Peter Farley, March 29. 26—Andrew Fattig, October 2.

1878: Erick Johnson, January 24.

1879: 20—W. Sutherland, March 31. 26—P. Peterson, March 31. (Note. Sections 5, 6, 7, 8, 17 and 18 of this Congressional



township are in Clearwater township, the rest are in Silver Creek township.)

**Township 122, Range 25 (Monticello).** The first claims in this Congressional township were entered in 1857. Those who filed that year were: 19—J. B. Locke, June 24. 30—Joseph Brooks, June 24; Margaret E. Brooks, August 7. 33—James E. Mealey, December 23; Amos Rich, November 9; Frederick F. Barker, July 30.

1860: 30—James J. Parker, November 22; Randall Smith, October 22. 31—Randall Smith, October 22; Isaac D. Emmons, October 20; John A. Smith, October 22; James J. Parker, October 22; William Murray, November 24. 32—Calvin Blanchard, November 24; William Murray, November 24; James Elliot, October 15. 33—James Elliot, October 15. 34—John Rich, October 9.

1869: 32—William M. Rackliff, June 4.

1875: 32—August Mabias, December 14.

## CHAPTER XI.

### WRIGHT COUNTY WAR.

**Wallace and Jackson Arrive in Wright County—Wallace Wealthy, Popular and Gifted—Jackson Poor and Morose—Settlers Find Dead Body of Wallace—Suspicion Directed Toward Jackson—Jackson Arrested and Brought Before Justice—Declares His Innocence—Prejudice Runs High—Jackson in Jail—Purported Confession from a Stranger—Jackson Tried Before District Court—Declared Innocent and Acquitted—Prisoner Discharged—Friends of Wallace Seek Revenge—Jackson Returns to County After Short Absence—Betrayed by the Civil Authorities and Lynched by a Mob While Wife Pleads for His Life—Protests Innocence to the Last—Moore Arrested—Delivered from Custody by a Mob—Governor Takes a Hand—Troops Arrive—Rioters Arrested by St. Paul Police—County Officials Agree to Punish the Real Offenders—Three Men Held—Grand Jury Fails to Indict—Excitement Subsides.**

The Wright County War, so-called, starting with a murder which culminated in a lynching, marked by the forcible deliverance from the civil authorities of one of the alleged lynchers, and resulting in the calling out of state troops to maintain the majesty of the law, constitutes an interesting incident in the story of the pioneer days of Minnesota.

Among the many settlers who came into the county in 1857 was Henry A. Wallace, who took a claim on the southeast quarter of section 2, township 119, range 25. A native of Antrim, N. H., about twenty-eight years old, unmarried, genial, well-educated,

a gentleman by birth and training, and reputed to be wealthy, he soon became a general favorite. In the spring of 1858 he had already made considerable progress in farming, had built a substantial log house, and had quite a large clearing. At the organization of the town of Rockford he was elected assessor.

About the same time that Wallace settled in the county, Oscar F. Jackson and his wife arrived from Pittsburgh, Pa., located on the southeast quarter of section 3, in the same township, erected a crude house and made a small clearing. At the organization of the town of Rockford he was elected supervisor and justice of the peace. Apparently a poor man, he often neglected his own farming in order to earn cash by working for the other pioneers. He and A. W. Moore each lived about a mile and a half from the Wallace place, but no roads had been built to it.

In the early part of August, Wallace started haying in a meadow on the eastern line of his claim. He was assisted by Jackson, who for his services was to receive half the crop. So far as is known, Wallace was never again seen alive by any of the settlers.

On September 8, the pioneers began to wonder as to Wallace's whereabouts, and search was at once instituted. His body was found in a clump of bushes in the hay meadow, the head bearing the marks of a severe blow with some blunt instrument. Near by was a drag, such as the settlers often made by nailing cross pieces onto slender poles. The drag was broken, and had evidently been used as a means of conveying the body to its place of concealment. The settlers buried the dead man and swore vengeance on the murderer of their genial comrade.

Suspicion soon rested on Jackson as the guilty one. This feeling was strengthened by the fact that he had in his possession certain bank notes on the Amoskeag Bank, of Manchester, N. H. At this time, on account of the financial stringency of 1857, most of the settlers were without money, and unable to obtain any. Business was paralyzed, and many banks had suspended payment. Few bank notes were in circulation, as wild-cat currency had made the people wary. When a bank note did pass from hand to hand in a small settlement, it could readily be traced to its source. Consequently the whole neighborhood knew that Wallace was the original owner of all the Amoskeag Bank notes in circulation in Wright county. Jackson explained his possession of the notes by saying that he had sold his half of the hay to Wallace. He declared that he had not seen Wallace since he had been haying with him, and that he knew nothing about the murder.

But the settlers believed him guilty. On September 16, 1858, Guilford D. George went to Monticello, and after relating the settlers' version of the affair, secured a warrant. James R.

Lawrence, of Minneapolis, prosecuting attorney for the Fourth judicial district, in which district Wright county was included, was not consulted. The warrant was in the handwriting of Edward Hartley, afterward captain of Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was signed September 27, 1858, by Cyrus C. Jenks, justice of the peace. It alleged that Jackson had murdered Wallace with an axe or other deadly weapon, on or about August 27. Jackson was arrested by Sheriff George M. Bertram, September 27, 1858.

The justice court, with Cyrus C. Jenks on the bench, was held at Rockford. No lawyers being present, Guilford D. George, the complainant, acted for the state, and Thomas R. Riggs, not at that time a member of the bar, made a nominal appearance for the defense. A large number of people was present, and prejudice against the prisoner was intense. Many witnesses were called for the prosecution. Their combined testimony was to the effect that in July and August, Jackson had repeatedly said that he had no money and had frequently tried to obtain credit, that he had later had in his possession several bills issued by the Amoskeag Bank, that he was known to have been haying with Wallace a few days before the body was found, that though he had been frequently with Wallace during the spring and summer he had expressed no curiosity as to Wallace's absence, and that when questioned about the matter he had shown an absolute indifference as to Wallace's fate, and had not joined in the search for him. The evidence for the state having been heard, Jackson presented no testimony in his own defense, but rested on his previous statement that he had received the bills as payment for his share of the hay, that he had been too busy with his work to interest himself in the Wallace matter and that, unlike the others in the locality, he was not in the habit of minding his neighbors' affairs.

At the close of the hearing, Jackson was bound over to await the action of the grand jury. He was taken by Sheriff Bertram to the Ramsey county jail. Two months later he was taken to Fort Ripley, but was subsequently returned to the Ramsey county jail.

In the meantime, Hiram L. Wallace, brother of the murdered man, came from Antrim, N. H., and had the body removed to St. Anthony. Search was made for a missing rifle, gold watch and blanket shawl which the dead man was known to have owned.

While awaiting trial, Jackson exhibited to the authorities a letter which he claimed that his wife had forwarded to him. This letter alleged that the writer was then living on the Missouri river, that in August, 1858, he had been traveling through the Big Woods in Wright county, had come upon a man mowing in a meadow, had been moved with cupidity, had murdered him

with an axe, and had then taken his rifle, watch and money, and made good his escape. His object, he said, in writing the letter was to save an innocent man from hanging. The letter was not presented at the trial, and was consequently not made a matter of judicial investigation.

The district court convened at Monticello, March 27, 1859, with Judge E. O. Hamlin on the bench. The grand jury indicted Jackson of murder in the first degree, and the trial began March 29. James R. Lawrence, district attorney, appeared for the state, while the prisoner was defended by George E. H. Day, of St. Anthony, and Charles King and W. A. Gorman, of St. Paul. When only nine jurors had been selected, the panel was exhausted. A special venire was issued for six jurors and three were accepted. Almost all the veniremen from Rockford and Buffalo were challenged for actual bias. J. W. Mulvey, Samuel Wilder and William Powell were appointed triers. The jury consisted of John W. Washburn, Calvin Blanchard, Benjamin Bursley, John Zackman, John Black, John D. Taylor, Miranda R. Swartout, Alvah Cooley, Michael Kinna, John B. Rich, Alonzo T. Boynton and Hiram C. Colbough.

The state had a large number of witnesses. Nearly half of the adult male residents of Rockford were put on the stand, and many from Buffalo, and from Greenwood, in Hennepin county. The defense also had a number of witnesses from Rockford and elsewhere. The able attorneys on both sides worked hard, and the trial was long and exciting. The evidence was a reiteration of that brought out at the justice trial, the state repeating the story of Jackson's poverty, his sudden possession of the Amoskeag Bank bills, his haying with Wallace, and his indifference as to Wallace's fate; while the defense endeavored to sustain Jackson's previous declaration that, while it was true he was a poor man, he had received the bills from Wallace as payment for his half of the hay, and that what the neighbors called indifference was merely an absence of meddlesomeness.

The case was submitted to the jury at 3 o'clock in the afternoon, on April 2. Judge Hamlin followed the usual judicial procedure of instructing the jury that if in the minds of the jurors there was any reasonable doubt as to actual guilt, the doubt must be construed in favor of the defendant. During the evening session the jurors asked further instruction on the subject of "reasonable doubt." The judge explained at some length the legal meaning of the term, and again instructed them that they could not convict the prisoner if they found, in reviewing the testimony, a reasonable doubt as to his guilt. The jury again retired and at 9 o'clock on the morning of April 3 brought in a verdict of "Not guilty." The prisoner was discharged and immediately left the county.



He stayed a while in Stillwater, and, about April 12, went to Minneapolis. The men who had previously worked for his conviction as a murderer and did not agree with the verdict of the court, were anxious to get him back to Wright county, where they could wreak their hate upon him unmolested. Accordingly, through an improperly issued warrant, they had him arrested and brought before a Wright county justice, who had been persuaded to go to Minneapolis for that purpose, the charge being the larceny of molasses, flour and money from Wallace's house. But before the plans of the complainants were matured to the point of rushing him back to Wright county, his friends secured a writ of habeas corpus and he was released, the justice who had figured in the case having no jurisdiction or legal authority in Hennepin county.

A few days later Jackson returned to Wright county of his own volition, with a view to looking after his property. On the night of Wednesday, April 21, he was seen near his claim, and before morning his house was surrounded by fifteen armed men. Before Thursday night, thirty men were on guard. The siege was continued for several days. In the meantime the rumor spread that Jackson was prepared to defend himself with fire-arms, so the thirty armed watchers determined to again call to their aid the support of the law. A. W. Moore went to Buffalo and swore out a warrant before Justice Jackson Taylor, charging Jackson with stealing flour and other articles from Wallace's house. Sheriff Bertram, with a posse consisting of Jackson Taylor, James Sturges and Abner Hinman, started for Rockford to serve the warrant. Jackson was found in his home totally unarmed. The sheriff assured him that he would not be harmed, that the posse would protect him, and that he must go to Buffalo. Jackson still manifesting some doubt, the sheriff went outside and had a consultation with the men who had been besieging the cabin. He then reported to Jackson that the mob had all left, that there would be no further trouble, and that all the neighbors desired was that he should leave the county. This Jackson agreed to do, and started for Buffalo in company with the sheriff and the posse. A short distance from the house, the sheriff sent Abner Hinman ahead to give the alarm if there was any prospect of trouble.

Of the tragic events that followed, Farnham once wrote: "If the mob had promised the sheriff that they would not molest them on the way to Buffalo, or if he had any faith in their promises, why did he send Hinman ahead to look for danger? They had proceeded about sixty rods and were just opposite the Knights house, afterward Roloff's, when Hinman shouted, "Look out, they are coming." The sheriff turned to Jackson and said, "Run for your life; save yourself." People have often asked

why Jackson did not run, as he had at least thirty rods the start, and in a short time would have had the darkness to aid him in eluding his pursuers. But Jackson knew very well the character of the men with whom he had to deal. They were nearly all practiced hunters, good marksmen, skilled by long practice in chasing swift-footed deer, and if he had separated himself from those with him a bullet would probably have ended his life then and there. The sheriff, the posse and Jackson ran into the Knights cabin and closed the door. In a few minutes the door was broken open and the cabin was filled with armed men. While the sheriff and the posse quietly submitted to being held up by arms the leaders of the mob bound Jackson and led him away to a neighboring house to wait until morning. The sheriff and the posse returned to Buffalo.

So far as is known no effort was made in the hours that followed to assert the majesty of the county in behalf of the man who, having been taken into custody had the strongest of claims on organized society for protection and succor.

All night long a wretched human being crouched in the presence of his captors protesting his innocence, all night long the wife sobbed in her cabin, all night long the blood-lust ran like fire in the veins of wild-eyed, frenzied men. Constituted authority raised not its hand. The law had received its supreme test, and those who were sworn to support it had failed. All night long messengers went from town to town calling upon those who believed Jackson guilty to meet at Wallace's house in the morning.

Mr. Farnham continues: "On Monday, April 25, 1859, representatives from at least four townships were wending their way to the Wallace house. Those who had the prisoner in charge arrived with him about noon. A stick of timber about twenty feet long and six inches in thickness was put into the gable-end of the house, one end resting on the upper floor, and the other projecting about six feet. A rope was thrown over the end. In the meantime guards were placed around the small clearing to prevent any interference with their purpose. When all was ready, a hangman's noose was placed about Jackson's neck, and the leader said, 'Pull him up; we will make him confess.' After life was nearly extinct the victim was let down and revived. Facing Eternity as he was, Jackson was again asked, 'Are you guilty of the murder of Wallace?' and he answered 'No.' Then he was asked about the watch, the rifle and the blanket, and as before he declared that he knew nothing about them. About this time the stricken wife evaded the guards and rushed into the clearing. She was pinioned, and in a swooning condition was carried toward her home. Jackson was then hauled up again, nearly to the beam, and the leader fastened the end of

the rope by winding it several times around the projecting log, leaving several feet of slack rope in the hands of his assistants. This work had been hastened by a shot heard a short distance from the clearing, and the leader had shouted, 'The rescuers are coming; pull him up.' Scarcely had Jackson hung a minute from the end of the beam when the order 'Hands off' was given to the men who held the slack. The body of Jackson fell about five feet, instantly breaking the neck. Then the lynchers fled, leaving the body hanging from the beam.

"On the morning of April 26, Samuel Holdship, a brother of Mrs. Jackson, went to Buffalo to secure assistance in caring for the body. He was sent to Edward F. Tillotson, deputy coroner, then living on the Monticello road near Lake Pulaski. Tillotson summoned a coroner's jury, took down the body and held an inquest. The verdict was that the deceased had come to his death by hanging at the hands of some person or persons unknown to the jury. The body was taken in charge by Mrs. Jackson and the male members of the Holdship family, and taken to Stillwater for burial. The family did not return to the county."

The hanging of Jackson by a mob after he had had an impartial trial and been acquitted, created quite a sensation throughout the state, and there was a demand all over the country that the guilty persons should not go unpunished. Lynchings had also taken place in other parts of the state, and the reputation of Minnesota suffered severely throughout the civilized world. Press and public demanded that this bloody overriding of the law must be stopped.

"All lovers of law and order were anxious that the lynchers should be brought to justice. On May 2, Governor Henry H. Sibley, by proclamation, offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who participated in the hanging.

"Thus matters rested until July 26, 1859. At this time there was a celebration by the Sons of Malta at Minnehaha Falls, and being a large affair, it was attended by many citizens, among whom was Aymer W. Moore, of Rockford, who was supposed to be one of the lynchers. One of the Holdship family, a brother of Mrs. Jackson, was also there, and when he saw Moore he at once returned to St. Paul and informed his sister, who went before a notary public and swore out a complaint.

"Governor Sibley immediately issued an order on the complaint directing Chief of Police Corsely, of St. Paul, or the sheriff of Ramsey county, to arrest Moore and convey him to Wright county and deliver him to the proper authorities. The order also directed Attorney General Berry to proceed to Wright county and prosecute the case on behalf of the state. Accordingly Moore was taken into custody; and the sheriff and Moore,



accompanied by Mrs. Jackson, Holdship, Attorney General Berry and District Attorney J. R. Lawrence, started for Wright county.

“Upon reaching Monticello, they sent for Samuel Bennett, a justice of the peace who resided some three miles from the village. By the time the proper complaint could be made before him, and the warrant issued, night had fallen, and the hearing of the case was postponed until the following day. The prisoner was placed in the custody of Deputy Sheriff Blanchard, and as there was no jail in the county, Blanchard took Moore to his own home to await examination in the morning.

“There were no telegraph lines at that time and no railroads, and the mail from Minneapolis to Rockford arrived but once a week by stage. But in some manner the news of Moore’s arrest traveled rapidly, so that in a few hours after he was apprehended at Minnehaha Falls, it was known all over Rockford and Buffalo. Great excitement prevailed, for Moore was believed to be easily frightened, and it was feared that he would expose all those implicated in the lynching. In the afternoon of the day that Moore was taken to Monticello, about thirty men from Rockford and Buffalo met at a house in the latter town, near the line of the former, and after arranging various disguises, and preparing a large quantity of charcoal and burnt cork for the purpose, started in squads of twos and threes for Monticello by different routes, a point of meeting after dark having previously been agreed upon.

“Just after 9 o’clock that night a rap was heard at the Blanchard home, and upon the door being opened, the house was instantly filled with men with blackened faces. The deputy sheriff was quieted by threats, and Moore was released. A strong guard was left in and about the house for an hour, and then the mob left. The pursuit which the deputy sheriff and citizens instituted availed nothing.”

A report was made to Governor Sibley, who at once issued the following state paper:

“Proclamation. By the Governor of the State of Minnesota: For the first time in the history of the State it has become the stern and imperative duty of the executive of the State to employ a military force to suppress a combination against the laws in one of the counties in the State. Twice has an armed mob in Wright county outraged public sentiment, first by the unlawful hanging of Oscar F. Jackson after he had an impartial trial and had been acquitted by a jury of that county, and subsequently on the third inst., by rescuing an alleged participant in that crime from the civil authorities. To assert the majesty of the law and to subdue the spirit of ruffianism which has manifested itself by overt acts, prompt measures will be taken.

“I, Henry H. Sibley, Governor of the State of Minnesota, in



view of the fact that the civil officers of Wright county are perfectly powerless to enforce and execute the laws, do hereby declare the said county of Wright in a state of insurrection, and I enjoin upon all the good citizens of that and adjoining counties that they lend their aid to suppress violence and disorder, and solemnly warn the actors in these outrages in Wright county, that any further attempts on their part to obstruct or resist the course of public justice will bring inevitable ruin on their own heads, and may be desolation and misery on their families.

“In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the State to be affixed this fifth day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and fifty-nine, and of the State the second. By the Governor, Henry H. Sibley. Francis Baassen, Secretary of State.”

“With the execution of justice seemingly in the hands of a mob, with the civil authorities apparently powerless to prevent gangs of armed men from lynching acquitted citizens and then delivering arrested alleged lynchings from custody, a display of the state’s force seemed necessary for the preservation of life, decency and order. The regular civil officers of Wright county declared that they could neither curb nor punish these illegal acts. Governor Sibley saw that he must eradicate this defiant lawlessness or merit the censure of civilization for an abject surrender of the rights and protection of the people to a few rebellious citizens.

“He at once ordered the uniformed and equipped militia of the state under arms, and on August 5 dispatched three companies to Monticello, to arrest the rioters and enforce the law. The Pioneer Guards of St. Paul, under command of Captain Western, started for Wright county by way of Anoka. The St. Paul papers of that day speak in great praise of Captain Western and his men and of the alacrity with which they got under way and started for the scene of the outrages. The guards numbered forty-two men, rank and file, and were dressed in regulation army uniforms and armed with United States muskets. Each soldier also carried a revolver. The trip was made in large army wagons furnished by the quartermaster general. The next day, August 6, the Stillwater Guards, consisting of forty-five men under Captain Loomis, and furnished with the same equipment as the Pioneer Guards, also started out in army wagons. The same day, the City Guards, of St. Paul, under Captain O’Gorman, also started out in wagons. They were armed like the others, but in place of the regulation uniform wore a costume of black trousers and blue flannel shirts. A St. Paul paper of that date says, ‘They were a hardy set of boys and went off in high spirits.’ The three companies were under the command of Lieutenant Colonel John S. Prince. With them were Colonel Francis Baassen, acting adju-

tant general, and his assistants, Messrs. Simpson and Hunt. The adjutant general issued orders that there should be held in readiness: Company D, 25th Regiment, Captain Crooks; Company A, 13th Regiment, Captain French; Company C, 25th Regiment, Captain Shaw; Light Cavalry, 25th Regiment, Captain Starkey.

"Such preparations were sanctioned by public sentiment, and the newspapers and people were back of it. The newspapers said: 'Crush out the rebellion at once, wipe out these outrages to law and order, even if Wright county has to be wiped out.' The 'Minnesotian,' which afterward strongly censured Governor Sibley for the expense of this trip, was one of the most bitter in its denunciations of the outrages, found fault with the governor for not offering a larger reward, and insisted that the rioters must be brought to justice regardless of who or what stood in the way.

"While the military forces went up the river route, a police force of about thirty-five men under command of Chief of Police Corsley, of St. Paul, was sent out by way of Rockford. They camped near Rockford one night, but did not make any arrests at that time. The rioters had again become ordinary citizens, and stealthily watched the police force from places of concealment. From Rockford the force went to Monticello by way of Buffalo. Twenty-three persons, mostly residents of Buffalo and Rockford, were taken into custody by the police and special constables. The militia made no arrests but their presence had a salutary moral force.

"Meantime the lynchers and rescuers were scattered all over the county, especially in the timbered portions. One spent a week under a haystack, another was hid in a cornfield, another in a tamarack swamp, another in the cellar of a deserted cabin, and others took refuge on an island in Lake Beebe, in the southwest part of Frankfort, where their friends fed and guarded them. The excitement had died out, the guilty ones were thoroughly frightened and remorseful, and all began to realize for the first time that their hands were wet with the blood of a fellow being, and their reputations forever blasted among all good people by their defiance of the law.

"Confronted by the moral and physical force of organized order, the county officials and other prominent men promised that the offenders should be arrested and punished, a promise which was never kept, for to this day no one has been brought before a bar of justice for taking part in these outrages.

"To prove that they had the desire and the power to carry out their promise, the county officials and their backers agreed that if the state authorities would prepare to withdraw their forces that three of the real offenders would be arrested and delivered up to justice. Accordingly the sheriff went into the

woods and went through the form of arresting Aymer W. Moore, Hiram S. Angell and J. E. Jenks. At the justice court they waived examinations and were bound over to the October term of the district court under \$500 bonds, which they easily obtained, and they were set at liberty. Thus the Wright County War was ended. The troops and police returned to their homes August 11. The troops had been under arms not more than seven days at most. But it was universally acknowledged that had there been less force the rioters would have shown real resistance and bloodshed might have resulted.

"The district court met at Monticello October 2, 1859. After taking their solemn oath of office, the grand jury went into session. They failed to take any action in regard to the recent disturbances. Two at least of the county officials were anxious that the jury should dissolve without finding indictments. Consequently, on the morning of October 4, the jury adjourned. Whether anyone appeared before it is not now known. But it is said that with the menace of antagonistic prominent officials it would not have been safe for any of the friends of Jackson to show themselves in the county, and probably no one appeared before the jury during the short time it was in session."

The grand jury was constituted as follows: A. C. Riggs (foreman), L. C. Pickens, M. A. Taylor, J. W. Kirk, O. S. Boyd, Dana Hamlet, A. E. Oakes, O. H. Sheldon, H. F. Lillibridge, Benjamin Ward, H. W. Brookins, Samuel Houlton, F. Heyetter, W. H. Helm, Joseph Perkins, Edwin Grant, H. Nickerson, John Spaulding, Charles Wedgewood, A. Nickerson and W. Garcelon.

On October 4 the following order was issued:

"Ordered by the Court, that Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks be discharged from their recognizance; for the said Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks having appeared before the Grand Jury at the October term of the Court of the Fourth Judicial District at Monticello, Wright county, Minnesota, 1859, and they having appeared before said Grand Jury during the entire sitting of said Grand Jury and until said Court was adjourned.

"Now, therefore, the said Aymer W. Moore, H. S. Angell and J. E. Jenks are discharged according to law and their recognizances are hereby released."

Whether this action on the part of the officials and citizens was in accord with their solemn oath and promise to the state authorities is not for the historian to determine.

The cost of the expedition was necessarily considerable, but no law-abiding citizen, in Wright county or elsewhere, failed to heartily sustain Governor Sibley in his prompt and determined effort to uphold the dignity of the law. The effect long remained in the county in the enormous expense incurred, which, with other

criminal cases of less magnitude, created an indebtedness almost resulting in bankruptcy, and depreciating county orders to less than thirty-five cents on the dollar.

In the spring of 1877 August Roloff found a watch while clearing up an old fence near the place where Jackson's house formerly stood. In May, 1880, Frank Warner plowed up the remains of a rifle near the same place. It was declared that these were the long-missing possessions of Wallace.

Several other trials took place about this time. The trial of Casper Oehrlein for murder was a long and expensive one. But he was discharged, and though there was much testimony against him, the lynchers seemed to be satisfied with one victim, and Oehrlein was allowed to remain in the county.

## CHAPTER XII.

### PIONEER DEVELOPMENT.

**Pioneer Discomforts—By Allen Reinmuth—Early Days at Rockford—By George W. Florida—Claim Seekers and Various Types of Early Arrivals—Ginseng—Grasshopper Plagues—The Famine of 1867.**

The pioneer development of this part of Minnesota dates from 1852, but the real impetus came in 1856 and 1857, when land in many of the townships was entered at the United States land office. The pioneers who settled in this great wilderness had to face many hardships and nerve-testing ordeals, and the experiences and privations they underwent should be related for the benefit of the countless generations yet unborn who will reap the fruits of the work done by their frontier ancestors and predecessors.

People of the present day, and especially those who have never lived on farms, have no idea of the hardships a farmer encounters in a new country. By the time he has cleared, paid for, and established a standard model farm, he has used a great deal of vitality, patience and energy.

Especially were difficulties encountered in the wooded portions, such as the "Big Woods," which included most of Wright county, where the timber had to be cleared off before a cabin could be built or a garden planted. The trees were so large and set so close together that a traveler could scarcely see a rod ahead, and in the summer the foliage was so thick that the sky was obscured. Many varieties were represented, such as the red, white and burr oak, hard and soft maple, white and black ash, hickory, basswood, box-elder, red and white elm, ironwood,



cottonwood and others. These trees varied in size, the white elm and the white oak being the largest and tallest. One old white oak measured six feet in diameter, and a white elm which is standing today is four feet in diameter and a hundred and twelve feet high. There were only a few maple trees then, but after the great cyclone ruined and tore up by the roots all the large trees, the maples took their place, so that today the oaks and elms are few and the maples predominate.

The clearing away of the forest was no easy task. Saws were unknown, so the work was done with axes. There was no market for wood, and it had to be disposed of. The trees were felled, cut eight or ten feet long, then rolled into large heaps. This was done with the help of oxen when such could be secured, but those that could not afford oxen used wooden hand spikes, a slower and more difficult process. These heaps were then lighted, and since the wood was green and did not burn very readily, the piles had to be re-lighted time and again. The old pioneers, recalling the early clearing of the forest, have regretted many times that timber like oak, maple and ash had to be wasted by burning in such a manner, where today it would demand a good market and a high price. The process of felling trees was hazardous as well as tedious, for many a tree when falling would become lodged in the branches of a nearby tree, which would then have to be chopped also. This was a very dangerous task, for the tree above might shake loose any time and fall and crush the man working beneath. Two acres was all that could be cleared by two men in one winter.

The mosquitoes were plentiful, for the shallow pools were kept from evaporating by the shading forest, and myriads of insects hatched out daily. Screens were unknown, hence very little rest did the pioneers have day or night during the summers of the first few years. After the timber was somewhat cleared away, the pools dried out and the mosquitoes became fewer in number. Some of the early settlers did not have the endurance to keep up the task they had begun, so left, driven away by discomforts in which the mosquitoes were an important factor.

Railroads did not span this country until ten years later. The train service was not as convenient in the early days as it is at the present time. The cars were not ballasted and they often jumped from the track. The engines were small and the grades were steep, hence slow time was made both in passenger and freight service. There were no through freights, and fast mail trains and fliers were not put on until twenty-five years later.

The population at that time was small, about one family to four square miles. The only company the families had to break

the monotony was the howl of the wolves and the hoot of the owls and nighthawks.

Industry was crude then, for the equipment was meagre. Labor was done mostly by hand. Horses were not to be had at that date. The oxen, though very strong, could not be handled like horses for several reasons. They had no bridles, so they could go wherever they pleased, and sometimes they would even run away from their owners. They had not the intelligence horses have, therefore they could not be trained to do all the work horses do.

The early pioners had crudely constructed shacks built out of logs, about twelve by twenty feet, on an average, in size. These log houses were covered with elm bark for a roof, occasionally limbs and twigs were used. When the weather was dry the roofs did not leak, but when it rained the discomforts were intense. Everything got wet and the only thing to do was to wait until the rain stopped and then dry the clothes and bedding by the fire.

The chimneys were built of wood, plastered on the inside with clay to prevent them from burning, and like those of Lincoln's time, were small at the top and wide at the bottom. They were about six feet square at the bottom and three feet square at the top. Logs cut in suitable lengths were used as fuel, and as they were green a large fire had to be kept up.

There were few matches in those days, so fires were kindled by friction. To do this two dry sticks were rubbed together until they produced a spark, which would be dropped into a pile of sawdust and shavings to ignite them, and the glow induced would then have to be blown into a flame. When matches finally came into use on the farm this disagreeable task was done away with.

Implements of labor were also crude. Most of them were made of wood and progress with these tools was very slow and work could not be done either well or skillfully. The plows were made something like modern potato hillers with a beam, two handles and two braces to hold the handles in position. In the middle of this crude tool was a straight "four by four" with an iron plate one-half inch thick, fastened to the beam by old-fashioned screws. The harrow used was a brush taken from the top part of a maple tree. These harrows were drawn by two yoked oxen with a chain fastened to the yoke and the butt end of the harrow. This kind of a harrow was easily made and could well stand the jerks and jars it was exposed to while dragged over the stumps. The harrow was somewhat effective in smoothing the plowed ground. The cycle half-moon grain-cutter was the tool used to cut the grain. This was swung by one hand and the grain was caught in the other, which was very

hard and slow work. As soon as scythes and cradles were invented and purchased the farmers made better time and raised more grain. The threshing in the early days was done by means of a flail. The method of seeding was most interesting, looked at from a present-day viewpoint. There were first placed three sharpened poles ten feet long, a few inches in the ground in a vertical position, and in a straight line with each other across the field. Each stick had a red flag tied to the top of it as a sight to go by. The man had a few sacks of wheat placed conveniently here and there so he could get more seed whenever he needed it. To sow he carried a sack on his side, fastened over his right shoulder. One part of the sack was partly left open so he could reach in and get a handful of wheat. This wheat was scattered to right and left and in front of him. He would never carry more than a peck of wheat in the sack at one time as more would be too heavy.

The early settlers were very poor. Many had been here but a short time. Land was cheap under the preemption law, only costing about \$1.25 per acre. Later, under the homestead law, the United States gave homesteads to any who applied and fulfilled the conditions. All that was required for a man who took a homestead was that he live on it five years, after which he could receive a deed for same. Each homestead had a hundred and sixty acres, except in certain cases (such as the immediate prospect of an adjoining railroad) where conditions made the land of so much higher value that the claims were limited to eighty acres. No man could take more than one homestead. Although the land was cheap, tools and the other necessary articles were so high priced that farming was very expensive. The pioneers paid their debts in two ways, first by digging ginseng and secondly by selling the produce they raised.

The climatic conditions were more even and rains came at more regular periods than at present. The temperature was also more equitable, without the great and rapid changes known to the present time. The forest stopped the winds and kept the soil cool by shading it. Owing to those natural conditions the summers were not so extremely hot or the winters so extremely cold.

Aside from a little pork and beef, most of the meat was secured by hunting wild game, which was plentiful in the forest. At that time anyone could shoot all the game that fancy dictated. But now the big game has all departed, and even small game is not plentiful. Fish were also very numerous in the early days, but the number has now been so depleted that there would be little fishing in the county were it not for the thousands of fry supplied by the state and government hatcheries.

But the days of the pioneer are gone. Modern conditions

have replaced the days when the early settler lived with his little family in a cabin, painfully cleared his land acre by acre, and often knew what it was to lack for provisions. Now the county is a settled, prosperous area, surrounded on all sides by a high civilization, and with all frontier conditions long since removed.—By Allen Reinmuth.

**Pioneer Days in Rockford.** Let us go back to the fifties of 1800 and join the procession of emigration moving from the East, from Maine to Minnesota. There were two means of transportation: one by the water route that led to the West, on the surface of which the birchbark canoe smoothly glided and the majestic steamboat plowed its way through the currents, to the Northwest; the other route, over which the greater number came, by land. On this the prairie schooner (the covered wagon), often propelled by the noble ox, gallantly sailed towards the setting sun. This mode of travel was used during the fifties, with the added assistance of the Burbank stage-coaches that followed the trail of the ox team. In this manner of travel the people of Wright county had the same experience as the people of other counties of the territory of Minnesota.

It has been a great satisfaction that our mother came from Maine to Illinois in the early forties in a covered wagon drawn by one span of horses, with her father, her mother, five sisters and one brother.

In the fall of 1855 our father, with his brother-in-law, George F. Ames, visited Minnesota. On the way up the Mississippi river they met G. D. George, a gentleman from Boston, also visiting the territory. The three were congenial companions, and Mr. George joined them in prospecting the territory for a location. They located the present town of Rockford, on the Crow river, twenty-one miles from its mouth and one and one-half miles from its north and south forks, at a place called by the Indians Big Rock, owing to the big rocks in the rapids at this place.

In the spring of 1856 our family party, consisting of our grandparents, uncles, cousins and aunts, came to Galena and took passage on the "War Eagle" to St. Paul. The trip up the Mississippi was most interesting, its scenery comparing favorably with the Hudson or the Rhine. We were treated to an exciting steamboat race through Lake Pepin, when our gallant War Eagle swung into the lake to pass a rival boat. All on board took a lively interest. The grates of the boilers were wide open and relays of firemen kept the furnace full of wood, and to increase the power, bacon, from a pile on deck, was thrown in. With the safety-valve tied down, we left our rival in the wake and cheered the War Eagle.

Arriving in St. Paul, we were driven to Minneapolis over the beautiful rolling prairie to St. Anthony. On the elevated ground



near where the university stands was Cheaver Tower. Over the door to the stairway to its top was "Cheaver Tower. Pay your dime and climb." From this tower one had a commanding view of the lakes and bluffs, with the smooth prairie stretching to the Minnesota river on the west side, the high, gradually ascending table land on the east, with the falls in their original grandeur plunging between. This view made a picture in my mind that fifty-nine years has not changed, though a teeming city has occupied the place.

Our people brought a steam sawmill to Rockford in 1856, cutting the road from where Hamel now stands. This mill cut material for a number of houses built in 1856. Three are now standing. The mill burned in the winter. In 1857 the dam was built. A flour mill, a feed mill and a sawmill were put in operation to accommodate the settlers that were then locating near the village in the Big Woods, as the belt of hardwood timber between forty and fifty miles wide was called. This belt extended from the Mississippi on the north side of the county in a circular form to the southeastern part of the territory, between Faribault and Mankato.

In 1857 the settlers were confronted with an unexpected setback. The wild land speculation of the previous years had precipitated what was known as the crash of 1857, a time when the bottom had dropped out of the financial system and a general depression followed. The money in circulation was largely issued by private banks and as this could not be redeemed, one after another fell in the financial whirlpool. Settlers who had means, as they supposed, to make improvements, found their money worthless, and it was given the name of wildcat currency. To add to their misfortunes, the grasshoppers appeared in July, so thick that they darkened the sun, and when they had gone, the small fields of corn, wheat and potatoes were nearly bare. Fortunately for the settlers, they had no means to return to the older settlements, and during 1857 and 1858 did the best they could.

Fish and game were plentiful. Material for building log cabins and barns was at hand. The spirit of the people was good. May 11, 1858, the territory was admitted as a state. The Indians were induced to remove to their agency on the Minnesota river, five miles below the Redwood river, and with their removal the game was more plentiful. The settlers had a never-failing supply of venison, geese, ducks, pheasants, pigeons, fish and all kinds of fur-bearing animals. The Children of Israel were not better provided with manna in the Wilderness than the first settlers of this section. Deer was so plentiful that at Monticello, while Senator Samuel Bennet was making his family prayer after breakfast, one of his little girls whispered that a deer was

in the cabbage patch. Mr. Bennet rose with alacrity, took a rifle from over the door, shot the deer, returned to his kneeling position and devoutly finished the prayer.

From St. Anthony two small steamboats, "The Cutter" and the little "Time and Tide," plied between the falls and Crow Wing on the upper Mississippi, stopping at Dayton, Monticello and Clearwater. The landing in St. Anthony was at the head of Nicollet Island, opposite the old Tremont House. Louis Robare was the captain of the "Time and Tide." He would stand at the little wharf and call the time of starting. He would shout: "Time and Tide starts at seven. Time and Tide waits for no man, but one-half hour for one woman." The Wright county ladies had plenty of time if they took passage with Captain Robare!

While we were supplied with many comforts from the hand of Nature, there were other things necessary to complete the list of comforts formerly enjoyed by the settlers. Clothing and groceries required money, and this was so scarce that many families were destitute and in the spring of 1859 were discouraged. On the evening of May 18 two gentlemen from Richmond, Va., Colonel Blaine and Major Goshorn, drove into the village. They asked if ginseng grew in the woods. They thought, from the maple and basswood, it would be plentiful in this timbered country, and they had come from Virginia to buy it. They would prepare it for the Chinese market at this place by washing, clarifying and drying, a process used at that time in preparing the roots for the Chinese trade.

On the morning of May 19 Mrs. Beebe, my cousin, Frank Ames, and I went into the woods in search of ginseng. It was the writer's good fortune to find the first plant. We dug it and carried it to Colonel Blaine. He pronounced it a fine specimen, and said they would pay gold for all that could be dug. We passed the top and root from one to another, that they might know it in the woods. The digging was done with a narrow hoe made for the purpose. Agencies were established at Buffalo, Watertown and Hassen, for the convenience of the diggers. In a few days the chief occupation was digging ginseng. The price paid in the spring was five cents per pound, and eight and ten cents in the fall, for green roots. Whole families dug. Some good diggers would dig five dollars worth in a day. We dug like a lot of miners, with the expectation of finding rich digging every moment. Many of the settlers paid for their land with the money that came with the ginseng.

The Fourth of July had been observed appropriately in 1857 and 1858, but Minnesota now being a state over a year old, it was decided that July 4, 1859, must be celebrated in a royal manner. Invitations were sent to the towns of the county to join with us.

We must have a band. Uncle Cyrus Redlon and his two sons were musicians. They were from Boston. Uncle Redlon had a fife. Fred and Frank Redlon were good drummers, but we had no drums. Amos Denney made fine pork barrels of white oak. We asked him for a barrel to make a bass drum. We sawed off the ends to give it the right proportion, and covered them with heavy buckskin and strung it in such a way as to make it tight. The drum was a great success. It was a heavy bass. We then took a fish keg and made a snare or tenor drum in the same way. That proved a success. We were provided with drums.

When the war broke out in 1861, the Rockford drummers enlisted in the army, and each filled the same position in the military band that he had at the first celebration after the state was admitted to the Union.

D. R. Farnham was from Massachusetts and was well trained in military tactics. He had organized a company of young men known as the Rockford Militia or Home Guards. These he trained in marching and the manual of arms. The ladies of the village had made a fine flag for this occasion, to be carried at the head of the procession. We had also taken two widths of sheeting with which we made a banner by stitching them together and tacking to two poles to be carried by two men. The banner was sixteen feet long. On this Frank Redlon, a good sign painter, painted a backwoodsman carrying a ginseng hoe on his shoulder with a bag of ginseng attached; behind him a young man of twenty, carrying a hoe and bag; following him, a younger member and a little boy and the baby, each carrying a hoe and bag. Over all, in good, large letters was, "Big pig, little pig, root hog or die." This was our motto. Our procession was headed by the flag and drum corps, leading the militia. The Sunday school in marching line followed the militia. The banner was carried at the head of the citizens' column.

From all the country the people came to join this great celebration; from Monticello, Buffalo, Dayton, the Virginia settlement (now Montrose), Waverly, Marysville and Watertown, in Wright county; Armstrong, Maple Plain, Long Lake, the Yankee settlement and Greenwood, in Hennepin county.

Our mother had brought a small melodeon from Illinois, which accompanied the chorus that sang patriotic songs. The Declaration of Independence was read. An address was given. Then the dinner, that the oldest settlers have not forgotten! Roast pigs on china platters brought from former homes; pyramid cakes, that to us small boys looked like haystacks! The long table in the shade of the majestic elms was a triumphal monument to the glory of ginseng, and our motto, "Root hog or die."

In the afternoon the Sunday school, under the care of our

uncle, William Sleight, its superintendent, and later, president of the Old Settlers' Association, took the field with an exhibition in singing and speaking that to my knowledge has not been surpassed since.

The settlers were a very intelligent class, many from the New England states, and represented a cultivated people. It was these men that responded so nobly for the defense of the Union in 1861. I think all of Mr. Farnham's company enlisted.

The most important factor in the development of Wright county's resources was the extension, in 1868, of the St. Paul and Pacific Railway, from Long Lake, in Hennepin county, to Crow river. This afforded transportation and gave ready market for hardwood lumber, stave bolts, hoop poles and farm products, that for twelve years had been hauled to market by teams or down the river by boats or rafts. The state had settled a princely land grant for the construction and operation of the road, by giving it every other section six miles each side of the track. The road was chartered and built by a syndicate of English capitalists, who bequeathed their names to the new towns along the line. Mr. Delano, the first superintendent, gave his name to the Crow river crossing, Mr. Montrose to the Virginia settlement, Mr. Dassel to Collinswood, Mr. Darwin to the edge of the Big Woods, Mr. Litchfield to Foot Lake, and Chief Engineer Morris to the town west of the Pomme de Terre.

A large part of the money for construction and equipment was furnished by the Amsterdam bankers on first mortgage bonds. The company had sent samples of the soil to Holland by placing the stratas as they lay in the surface formation in casks, showing the rich loam at the top with the clay subsoil below. This had been analyzed as to its fertility, so they knew what they were secured with as to land.

In the spring of 1870 the end of the track was at Benson. An invitation had been sent to the Holland bond-holders to visit the line. They came the first part of April, before the grass or leaves started. The country looked desolate. The prairie had burned in the fall. But few settlers had taken land west of Litchfield, and only a few dug-outs and sod houses with hay and sod stables could be seen.

The day selected for the run from St. Paul out over the line was cold and rainy. Accustomed as they were to the highly cultivated land of Holland, these gentlemen, in their long blue coats and brass buttons, would stand on the back platform and gloomily scan this wide uncultivated landscape, then they would return to the coach and offer their bonds to the more optimistic members of their party at a large reduction. When the bankers reached St. Paul on their return, they informed the company that they could not furnish any more money to extend the line;



that in their opinion it would be fifty years before the road could pay interest on the bonds.

The road found it hard to extend its line and keep up the repairs, but Wright county had the benefit of a good market for her wood, both east and west. In a short time rich fields of wheat and corn had taken the place where heavy timber had stood, and Wright county was made to "blossom as the rose."—By George W. Florida. Secretary of the Wright County Old Settlers' Association.

**Claim Seeking.** During the early townsite days, not all of those who swarmed the country looking for claims really desired to establish permanent homes, though all pretended that such was their object. The actual settlers were often imposed upon by these seekers after quickly earned wealth.

All who came had in their minds the picture of an ideal farm. They wanted a place consisting of seventy acres of prairie, level and clean; forty acres of meadow, all timothy or red top, high and dry; forty acres of thrifty timber; ten acres in a lake with gravelly shores and clean soft water; a running brook, and never-failing springs.

One type of man would come into a community, live for weeks on the charity of the settlers, examine all the claims in the neighborhood, and impress the people with the fact that he was a man of wealth in the eastern states, and that he and his family would be valuable assets to the social, educational and business life of the community. Wishing to secure desirable citizens in their community, the settlers would take him about free of charge until at last the critical one would find something that suited him—usually the best for miles around. As soon as he obtained possession his enthusiasm would wane. The roads were too bad, the mosquitoes were too thick, there were no schools or churches, and he was sure that his family could not thrive in such a community. And the settlers who had labored so hard to secure for him a desirable claim saw him dispose of it at a handsome price to a speculator or non-resident.

Another type of man would likewise represent himself as a man of wealth from the eastern or middle states, but unlike the other type, he was in a great hurry. According to his story, his large family, his splendid household goods and his magnificent numbers of sheep, cattle, horses and swine, were waiting at St. Paul, and he must secure a location immediately. Every settler in the neighborhood would neglect his own work and turn out to find this citizen a location, erect his house, clear some of his land, make suitable roads and build bridges. They were to receive their pay upon his return. With two false witnesses he would obtain his patent to the property, and the neighbors would wait with interest the coming of his family and possessions.

But in a few days they would find that their erstwhile friend was merely the agent of some speculator, and that their hard work had gone to enrich the pocket of a non-resident, while the alleged man of large possessions would change his name and operate the same swindle elsewhere.

Another type was the grumbler and the fault-finder. A failure in his former home, he expected that Wright county was a land where wealth and ease were to be obtained for the asking. He found everything different from his selfish dreams, and after making himself a nuisance and abusing the hospitality of the settlers, he would go elsewhere to spread unfavorable reports of this locality. This was the class of men who expected to receive free from the government, in a county less than two years old, 160 acres of land, surrounded by all the comforts and advantages of New England.

In spite of these undesirable persons and their unsavory acts, families began to come who intended to make this their permanent habitation, and by the close of the year 1857 much land in the east, north and south portions of the county had been taken. But during that year the great financial crash came, and many claims were abandoned as the settlers became a prey to discouragement. One reason for this was that many of the pioneers were poor, and had depended on their crops and day labor for others as a means of raising money with which to pay for their location. Consequently, when the land was put on the market and sold in 1859, many had no ready cash and were forced to abandon their claims, with all the improvements that they had made. In some cases these settlers who were forced to abandon their homes were on the odd-numbered sections along the railroad right of way, and their places reverted to the railroad. Some postponed the day of their leaving by borrowing money at three per cent a month, but the final result was the same, as they were unable to raise the interest money. Others had borrowed money with which to make improvements and the mortgages were foreclosed, thus depriving the settler of the results of his hard and wearisome toil.

Very few claims taken in 1856 and 1857 are now in the possession of the families of the original settlers. The grasshoppers frightened many away. Others moved to the larger places to get work, finding that they were unable to support their large families on the small amount of land that they could clear and cultivate the first few years. They seldom returned. And even in after years they remembered with horror the sufferings of 1857 in the Big Woods.

The settlers of 1856 and 1857 were from all parts of the United States, Canada and Europe. The towns along the Mississippi were located on prairies, and the first settlers were for the most

part Americans. But in the central and western parts it was quite different, all nations were represented, and homes were being made by the sturdy sons and daughters of the Old World. Society was in a chaotic state. In every community there was very great difference in manners, customs, usages and languages.

In organizing towns or even school districts, there were almost as many forms as there were individuals. The eastern men did not agree with the settlers from the middle states in the manner of procedure. The southern men had a way of their own. So had the German, the Irish, the French and the Scandinavian. In social life it was the same, and in religious matters it would have required at least a dozen clergymen to satisfy the various religious prejudices and opinions of a small settlement. It demanded a large amount of forbearance, patience and charity to harmonize all conflicting opinions. But the pioneers possessed these good qualities, and serious troubles on account of the varying opinions and customs were very few. The American soon learned to adopt some of the usages of the foreigner, and the European readily saw the advantages in following the superior skill and experience of the American in clearing land and building houses, and in many of the arts, customs and ways of New World civilization. A helping hand was extended to all and a new settler was assisted in building his house and in clearing his land. Thus harmony and brotherly love prevailed to a large extent. Social parties, dances and "chopping bees" increased friendly communication, and warm neighborly intercourse was the result.

The claim associations which had such an influence and took such a conspicuous part in settling disputes about claims in other parts of the state had very little work to do in Wright county. Disputes about locations were usually settled without expense or trouble, and without recourse to the courts.

Before the county was divided into towns the laying out of roads and the assessment of taxes and nearly all other business of a public character was in the hands of the board of county commissioners. Every settlement and nearly every individual wanted a road, and much of the attention of the commissioners was devoted to the granting of petitions for these thoroughfares. The laying out of these roads entailed much expense, and resulted a few years later in the depreciation of the county orders to thirty cents on the dollar. When this depreciation came and the county was in financial straits, the early boards received much criticism, but later events have justified their course in covering the county with a network of these means of communication and commerce. Unlike many Minnesota counties where wagons could find a passage anywhere on the spreading prairies, the early settlers in Wright county could not easily reach the lands that were open to settlement, and trees must be felled, bridges built



and trails made before the Wright county pioneer could establish his home in the wilderness.

**Ginseng.** The year 1859 in Wright county is marked by the advent of the ginseng buyers.

For a number of years the ginseng trade had been carried on with China by a few merchants in Philadelphia, and the supply of the article had been principally from western Virginia and eastern Kentucky. But the roots were growing less and less year by year.

Several persons who had moved from Virginia into Wright county reported to friends at home that ginseng was quite plentiful here, and the information brought Colonel Robert Blaine, from what is now West Virginia, an old ginseng trader, who commenced to buy the root. He paid for it in cash, which in this locality had been rather scarce for two years. The settlers' crops had been small and very low prices were paid for all farm products. There was no home market, and no railroads or other means of transportation to an eastern market, there was very little lumbering or building, and no extensive public works or improvements. So it was almost impossible to support a family in the Big Woods, and it seemed that many settlers would be obliged to leave or starve.

But as soon as the ginseng trade opened everything was changed. Prosperity and plenty followed the trail of the ginseng buyers. They had established agents in nearly every town, and men, women and children turned their attention to digging the roots. They paid up old debts, cleared up mortgages, paid for their land, and in everything seemed prosperous and happy, when a few months before all had been dark and discouraging.

It has often been said, since that time, that the ginseng business was not a benefit to Wright county but that it was an actual injury; that the early settlers neglected their farms and stopped clearing land, and did not make the progress in developing the country that they would have made if there had been no ginseng trade. But those who reason in this manner are ones who did not experience the hardships of 1859. It is a fact, indeed, that many of the early settlers were without means and could not have subsisted more than a short time, and many more would have abandoned their claims and farms if they could not have found temporary relief. That was not to be found in public funds, for there were none. Credit was gone, and ready money was necessary in working the farms. Ginseng supplied the need.

**The Locust Raids.** August 19, 1856, is a date not likely to be forgotten by the early settlers of this county, for on that day arrived the advance guard of that all-devouring army of winged gourmands whose ravages spread terror and panic among the



inhabitants, and almost depopulated the young settlements. The flying hoppers were seen going southeast about noon, and at 2 o'clock in the afternoon they began their work of destruction, eating every green thing. In Otsego and Monticello, about the only places in the county where wheat, oats and rye were raised to any extent, the loss was greatest. In attacking the oats the grasshoppers trimmed off every green leaf and then cut off the small stems on the heads, leaving the bare stalk standing and the oats all on the ground. Much of the wheat was of the Rio Grande variety and was partly protected by the heavy beards, but every leaf was cut off. The rye was hard and just ready to harvest, so to a large extent it escaped the general ravage.

The hope of relief occasioned by the sudden disappearance of the hoppers in the fall was blighted by their appearance in largely increased numbers the following spring, and a number of families, overcome with fear and discouragement, gathered their personal effects together and took their final departure.

The grasshopper invasion in 1856 and 1857 was confined mostly to the upper Mississippi valley. The insects appeared near the end of July in the northern part of the state. As they moved southward along both sides of the Mississippi their progress grew noticeably slower and they did not reach their southern limit, in Hennepin and Ramsey counties, until some time in September. Every crop except the pea vines was devoured, and the unharvested grain, with the exceptions already noted, was destroyed suddenly and totally. Where corn was too hard for them they devoured the blades and husks, leaving bare stalks and ears. They stripped the vines of potatoes, destroyed turnips, beets, onions, buckwheat and most garden vegetables. They nibbled clothing hanging upon lines, entered houses, attacked curtains and cushions, eating "tobacco, shoes and even thick cowhide boots." They probably deposited eggs in the fall of 1856 in all the region visited.

The following year the grasshoppers commenced hatching about May 10, and devoured the crops as fast as they appeared. Through May and the first part of June the number and damage increased, and in most cases the crops were entirely destroyed, so that in plowed ground not even a weed was seen. The time of hatching in 1857 seems to have been somewhat later than in other years. When they began to come out of the eggs the ground was fairly alive with them. Many settlers were discouraged from planting and seeding. The little hoppers began to eat and nearly everything, including the grass in the meadows, was eaten as fast as it grew. About the first of June the ones in Wright county began to move to the southeast by hopping and in a few days they began to fly in the same direction. Crow river was full of the little hoppers, but they did not stop at rivers or

creeks, but kept on their way, and by the first of July, after having devoured about half the crops, the whole greedy swarm had left Wright county. Large numbers continued to linger in other places until about the first of August. The direction of the departure was generally southward; the flying swarms passed over southern Minnesota as far east as Winnebago City. No eggs were left behind them, and the state was free from grasshoppers for seven years.

In the early part of June, 1864, the grasshoppers were thick in the Red river region, and over the plains of the Northwest. In June, 1865, the Sauk valley was invaded and vegetation almost entirely destroyed. But the chief scene of invasion in these two years was the Minnesota valley. They did no damage in Wright county. As before, the grasshoppers left no eggs behind them. There were slight locust invasions in the state in 1868, 1871 and 1872.

There was another serious invasion in 1873 in the southwestern part of the state. They deposited their eggs, and in 1874 the ravages were extended still further north and east, so that Wright county was again devastated. This county was one of the districts where the eggs in separate localities were thickly deposited. The hatching of these eggs in the following spring did little damage, as the young hoppers were killed by cold and damp and parasites. But new swarms invaded the state, and Wright county again suffered in the summer of 1876. These swarms deposited eggs, and in 1877 Wright county once more appeared on the lists of the counties which suffered heavily. Many devices were tried to destroy the pests, but to little avail.

The year of 1878 opened with still greater danger of crop destruction. But in April of that year the grasshoppers were totally annihilated by a frost. On the day preceding the frost the religious people of the state had engaged in prayer in their various churches, the day having been set aside as a season of prayer for deliverance. Governor John S. Pillsbury, who issued the proclamation calling for this observance, afterward said in relation to this day of prayer: "And the very next night it turned cold and froze every grasshopper in the state stiff; froze 'em right up solid, sir; well, sir, that was over twenty years ago, and grasshoppers don't appear to have been bothering us very much since." Money was raised to relieve the distress, and once more Wright county started to repair its fortunes.

**Famine of 1867.** The settlements were slow in recovering the numerical loss sustained during the Indian troubles, and it was not until the dawn of our nation's peace, and the return of her citizen soldiery, that material changes occurred. In the meantime most of the odd-numbered sections had come into the possession of a railroad company. After the war, with the prospect

of a railroad soon to be built through the county, these lands found ready sale to actual settlers, and with the homesteads taken during 1865-66, the census of Wright county was materially increased. As most of the late comers of 1866 were men of limited means, it was not strange that the spring of 1867 found many in destitute circumstances. Added to this embarrassment was the farther evil of an unusually wet spring, rendering early seeding impossible, and the roads, as yet unworked, nearly, and in many instances quite, impassable. May was scarce ushered in before rumors of destitution were afloat, and the press of the state informed the reading public that families were starving; that many were subsisting upon elm bark. The county commissioners were appealed to for aid, and accordingly sent out a committee of investigation, to ascertain and report the actual condition of the settlements where suffering was reported. The investigation disclosed the fact that in several of the western towns great destitution prevailed, and that prompt measures were necessary to prevent actual want and starvation.

The commissioners found it no easy matter to effect the necessary relief, with an empty treasury, and no time to arrange for the issue of bonds. Although the county was out of debt, its bonds, in the event of an issue, were not likely to be sought after by outside parties, and there was no surplus wealth within its borders. Something, however, must be done, and that, too, without delay. The only avenue of relief offered was the immediate issue of county orders, which was adopted, and a committee sent to St. Paul and Minneapolis to convert these into cash for the relief of the suffering. The banks, however, turned a deaf ear to the appeal of the committee, and utter failure seemed imminent. Just then W. B. Litchfield, prominent in railroad circles, hearing by a mere chance of the vain attempts on the part of the committee to obtain aid, volunteered the loan of the necessary amount, and thus secured to the committee the means of assistance. For this humane act Mr. Litchfield will ever be held in kindly remembrance. On May 18, at a special meeting of the county commissioners, it was voted: "That a county bond be issued to W. B. Litchfield, of St. Paul, to the amount of five hundred dollars, payable one year after date, bearing interest at the rate of seven per cent per annum. The same being for money to be applied toward relieving the destitute persons in Wright county. Signed, T. C. Shapleigh, Chairman Board of Commissioners. Attest: Henry Kreis, Auditor."

Pending the foregoing transaction, the governor had, upon appeal to him by some of the citizens, sent out eighteen sacks of flour and other articles of food, to meet the immediate requirements of the distressed. But the difficulties of the county commissioners did not end with the advance of money by Mr. Litch-



field. Flour in St. Paul was held at twelve dollars per barrel, and it was with great difficulty that a team was at last procured to take a load to Rockford, the charge for transportation being two dollars per barrel. This seemingly extravagant price was, after all, a questionable speculation on the part of the carrier. Rockford was made the distributing point, it being impossible to proceed farther by team, but the settlers were glad of the provisions furnished, even though forced to carry them in some cases from fifteen to twenty miles upon their shoulders. Provisions, seeds and clothing were also distributed from Monticello, and a few visited the cities and secured additional aid. Of the entire amount thus distributed, the county sustained an expense of about one thousand dollars.

The so-called famine of 1867 in the western part of Wright county attracted wide attention. In 1866 there was a large influx of new settlers. Reports came that the railroad was to be built at once, and that employment would be given to all who desired it. Consequently many people came in, took forty acres of railroad land, made small gardens and awaited the time when the railroad should be paying them wages. But operations were delayed, little work was done, there was no money to buy provisions, and suffering resulted. Much of the destitution was in Moores Prairie township (now Cokato and Stockholm), and in Victor and Middleville townships.

From that day to this old settlers have disputed as to the extent of real need in that region. Investigators from other parts of the state claimed to have found many cases of actual suffering and discovered numerous persons on the verge of starvation. Settlers in other parts of the county have been inclined to underestimate the privations which these new-comers experienced, and to brand the reports of suffering as sensational. But to those immigrants in a new and strange country, out of funds and provisions, and with little prospect of securing work, the need was very real.

Measures were taken to relieve the suffering by extending county aid for the purchase of flour, corn meal, potatoes, seed corn and garden seed. A destitute person was required to secure from the town supervisors a certificate recounting the amount of property owned by him, and the number of people in his family, and containing the statement that the person named therein was destitute of means and in a suffering condition for lack of food. Upon presentation of these to the commissioners, county aid was obtainable. Between May 18 and 27, in the town of Mooers Prairie (now Cokato and Stockholm) alone, certificates were issued to thirty-three families embracing 151 persons. In 1865 the census had shown only sixty-two persons in the township, but in the year following there had been many additions.



In the summer of 1857 many of the new settlers raised good crops, some went to work on the railroad, and prosperity followed. The railroad reached Cokato village July 1, 1869. Since then Cokato has been a land of plenty. For many years wheat was raised almost exclusively on what had been wild prairie land. The farmers imported meat and butter from Minneapolis and other places. But the change gradually came, and the people are now engaged for the most part in diversified farming and dairying.

## CHAPTER XIII.

### COMING OF THE RAILROADS.

**Original Project—Minneapolis & St. Cloud—Land Grant Roads—Bond Issue—Minnesota & Pacific—St. Paul & Pacific—Railroad Reaches Wright County—St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba—Great Northern—"Soo Line"—Railroad Tax Fiasco—Minneapolis and Central Minnesota.**

Railroad projects for Wright county were set on foot as early as 1847, when Professor Increase A. Lapham, then a noted Wisconsin civil engineer, outlined a plan of two railroads, one from Lake Superior and the other from St. Paul, which were to meet on the Red River of the North, below where Fergus Falls now is. He made a map and studied the country with care. The three lines crossing Wright county at the present time may be said in a general way to follow the route proposed by Professor Lapham, though nothing came of his plans at that time.

**The Minneapolis & St. Cloud Railroad Company** was incorporated by the legislature of 1855, to build a railroad from Minneapolis to St. Cloud, also a main line by way of Mille Lacs, from St. Paul, in the direction of Lake Superior. It is upon this charter, which has been kept alive by various territorial and state legislative acts, that the Great Northern now operates in Minnesota.

**The Land Grant Roads.** Before the admission of Minnesota as a state, many railroad companies had been chartered by the territorial legislature. The first recorded effort was by J. W. Selby, of St. Paul, who gave notice of the introduction of a bill on March 2, in the session of 1852, to incorporate the Lake Superior & Mississippi River Railroad Company. It passed in the house but failed in the council. However, it actually became a law March 2, 1853, by act of a subsequent legislature. The second charter was granted to the Minnesota Western Railroad Company March 3, 1853, and the third to the Louisiana & Minnesota Railroad March 5, 1853. Not less than twenty-seven railroad com-

panies, including the Minneapolis & St. Cloud already mentioned, were authorized and chartered from 1853 to 1857. But there was no life in any of them until the land grants were made.

On March 3, 1857, congress granted to the territory of Minnesota lands amounting to 4,500,000 acres for the construction of a system of railways. This magnificent grant of lands caused the governor in 1857 to call an extra session of the legislature. An act was approved May 22, 1857, granting to four railroad corporations alternate sections designated by odd numbers, in a strip twelve miles in width, six miles on each side of the roads and their branches.

These railroads were: The Minnesota & Pacific, the Transit, the Root River & Southern Minnesota, and the Minneapolis & Cedar Valley. They became known as the land grant roads. Of these, the Minnesota & Pacific was to cross Wright county. This road was created by the land grant act. The others had been in existence previously. The four companies were to pay three per cent of their gross earnings in lieu of taxes and assessments, and the lands granted by congress were to be exempt from all taxation until sold and conveyanced by the company. The corporations were generally given ten years to construct their respective roads. The financial embarrassments of 1857 retarded the progress of railroad building and it also became evident that the parties who had obtained the railway charters mentioned had neither the money nor the credit to complete these great highways of internal improvement.

**The Bond Issue.** The territory of Minnesota was admitted to statehood May 11, 1858. The constitution, ratified and adopted October 13, 1857, provided, in article 10, section 2, that "no corporations shall be formed under special acts except for municipal purposes," and it was still further provided that "the credit of the state shall never be given nor loaned in the aid of any individual, association or corporation." Notwithstanding the strong feeling worked up over the talk of getting bonds in the aid of railroads so badly needed in the state, the first act of the legislature, which was approved March 9, 1858, before the state was admitted, was to submit an amendment to the constitution, providing for loaning the state's credit to the four land grant roads to the extent of \$1,250,000 each, or \$5,000,000 in all, provided \$100,000 for every ten miles to be graded, and \$100,000 for every ten miles when the cars were running regularly. In return it required the roads to pledge the net income to pay the interest on the bonds and to convey the first 240 sections of land from the government grant to the state, and to deposit in first mortgage bonds an amount equal to the loan from the state for security. This occasioned much uneasiness among the most prudent of the citizens in the state; and though public meetings were held

denouncing the measure, it was, however, upon being submitted to the people, on the appointed day of a special election, April 15, 1858, carried by a large majority, there being 25,023 in favor to 6,733 against the amendment. Wright county voted almost unanimously in favor of the proposition, for in the Big Woods railroads were greatly needed. The measure afterward became known as the Five Million Loan Bill. The state bonds were of \$1,000 denomination, had twenty-five years to run with interest at seven per cent, the railroad companies to pay the interest, and were to be delivered to the incorporators of the companies when ten miles of the road was graded and ready for the superstructure. Owing to technicalities and severe attacks on their validity, it was extremely difficult to market these bonds. Times were hard and the companies were unable to pay the required interest.

On the assembling of the legislature in 1860 the interest on the state bonds having been defaulted, an amendment to the constitution was adopted and submitted to the people expunging the section sanctioned and approved by them, April 15, 1858, reserving only the state's rights. The electors of the state at the general election of November 6, 1860, with unanimity, by a vote of 27,023 to 733, approved of the amendment.

Of subsequent developments, the Minnesota State Manual says: In 1887, a proposition setting aside the proceeds of 500,000 acres for internal improvement lands in settlement of the repudiated railroad bonds was by act of the legislature submitted to a vote at a special election called for June 12, and voted down by the decisive vote of 59,176 against, to 17,324 votes for, the proposition. This vote was largely owing to the fact that the state at that time had almost an entire new population that had come into the state long after the bonds were issued and had no definite knowledge of the history of the original indebtedness.

In 1881 the legislature enacted a law providing for the adjustment of these bonds, and designating the judges of the supreme court as a commission to make the settlement. The constitutionality of this law was questioned, a writ of injunction was served, and the final determination of the supreme bench was that the law was unconstitutional, as also the amendment of 1860, prohibiting any settlement without a vote of the people. This latter act had previously been determined unconstitutional by the supreme court of the United States. An extra session of the legislature was called in October of the same year, when the final adjustment was authorized by act of the legislature, on a basis of fifty per cent of the amount nominally due, and, after a careful examination of all the claims presented, the bond question was forever set at rest by the issue of adjustment bonds, to the amount of \$4,282,000, to parties entitled to receive them. For the payment of these bonds the proposition of setting aside the pro-



ceeds of the 500,000 acres of internal improvement lands was again submitted at the general election in 1881, and by a vote of 82,435 votes in favor, and 24,526 votes against, the action of the legislature was ratified.

**The Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company** was to construct a railroad from Stillwater by way of St. Paul and St. Anthony to a point between the foot of Big Stone lake and the mouth of the Sioux Wood river, with a branch by way of St. Cloud and Crow Wing, to the navigable waters of the Red River of the North, at such a point as the legislature might determine. Breckenridge was finally selected as the point between Big Stone lake and the Sioux Wood river. The line to Breckenridge would cross Wright county, while the line to St. Cloud would be just across the river from this county. The company was also authorized to construct a railroad up the Mississippi valley from Winona to St. Paul, and also from a terminal point between the Big Stone lake and Sioux Wood river to any point on the Missouri river north of the fifty-fifth parallel of north latitude. Of the state bonds, this company received its share, having ready for superstructure nearly sixty-three miles of roadbed. This company was organized May 22, 1857, with a capital stock of \$5,000,000. It had the power to increase this to cover the full cost of its extension, but was not to consolidate with any railroad company owned or operated outside of the state without the consent of the Legislature.

**St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company.** After the interest on the state bonds had been defaulted, and the bonds had been repudiated, railroad matters in the state lay dormant for some two years. Then a new era of internal improvements commenced by the state making new grants of the old franchises and lands to other corporations. The first company to get the benefit of the new enactment were persons who had been interested in the Minnesota & Pacific Railroad Company, which reappeared under the name of the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company. Among the incorporators were: Edmund Rice, Dwight Woodbury, Henry T. Welles, Leander Gordon, R. R. Nelson, E. A. C. Hatch, J. E. Thompson, William Lee and Richard Chute. In the act incorporating the company, there was a proviso made by the state that certain portions of the road should be completed by specified dates. The company built a line from St. Paul to St. Anthony, and it was on this line on June 22, 1862, that the "William Crooks," the first locomotive in Minnesota with a train of cars, left St. Paul for St. Anthony. The other engine which was a part of the road's equipment was named the "Edmund Rice." Edmund Rice secured financial support in England, and the work continued. Slowly but steadily the St. Paul & Pacific Company laid its rails to the Red River of the North.



In 1864 the line was completed to Elk River, thirty-four miles from St. Paul and across the river from Wright county. In that year the corporation was divided into two companies. The line from Elk River to East St. Cloud, seventy-four miles from St. Paul, was completed in 1866. This gave Wright county a railroad lying only a few miles outside the course of its entire northern boundary line.

When the separation was made in 1864, the proposed line from St. Paul to Breckenridge became the "First Division," under the presidency of George L. Becker. The right of way through the Big Woods was cut in the winter of 1866-67. The line was completed to Wayzata, in Hennepin county, twenty-five miles, in 1867; to Delano, in Wright county, in October, 1868; to Cokato, also in Wright county, in July, 1869; then beyond the county and to Willmar later in the year. Breckenridge, on the Red River of the North, two hundred and seventeen miles from St. Paul, was reached in October, 1871.

During the financial panic of 1873, the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company became involved in a difficulty with its bondholders, and Jessie P. Farley, of Dubuque, Iowa, was appointed receiver of its unfinished lines. It was at this period that James J. Hill came into the limelight.

**The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company.** In 1878, James J. Hill, who had come to St. Paul from Canada in 1856, and had been gradually working his way upward, formed a syndicate consisting of himself, George Stephen (afterward Lord Mount Steven), Donald Smith (afterward Lord Stratheona and Mount Royal), and Norman W. Kittson. The syndicate acquired all the bonds and stock of the bankrupt two divisions of the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, the agreement with the Dutch committee of holders being made March 13, 1878. Foreclosure decrees were entered against the company in May, 1879, and the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company formed with a capital stock of \$15,000,000, and \$16,000,000 of first mortgage bonds were issued, there being at that time 565 miles of completed railroad, and 102 miles under construction. The lines of the company were leased on February 1, 1890, for 999 years, to the **Great Northern Railway Company**, which had been organized in 1889, and had taken over the charter of the Minneapolis & St. Cloud Railway Company.

In the summer, or autumn, of 1878, a survey was made through the northern part of the county, passing through the villages of Clearwater and Monticello. The people along the route were jubilant in anticipation of its early construction, but the project was abandoned, and their hopes unrealized. Thus matters remained until the winter of 1880-81, when another survey was undertaken, following the general course of the former, and com-

monly called Rosser survey. Other routes were also surveyed, including one through Buffalo. Propositions were submitted, aid extended from the towns of Monticello and Clearwater, and during the summer of 1881, the road graded as far as the latter village. Track laying began, from Minneapolis west, early in the season.

This line of railway up the west side of the Mississippi, passing through Wright county, and sometimes known as the Osseo branch, was constructed by the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway Company, under the charter of the Minneapolis & Northwestern Railway Company. It was built as far as Clearwater in January, 1882, and completed to St. Cloud and opened for operation December 17, 1882, the same date as the branch from St. Cloud to Milaca and Hineckley.

**The "Soo" Line.** The Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company—popularly known as the "Soo Line"—was organized and incorporated in the year 1884, under the laws of the State of Wisconsin. During the years 1884-1887, lines were constructed and operated between Minneapolis and Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., a distance of 494 miles.

A line consisting of 288 miles between Minneapolis, Minn., and Boynton, N. D., was constructed in years 1886-1887.

In 1888, the Soo Line began to branch out slowly, but gradually, and fast became a powerful factor in the development of the Northwest. The mileage of the company in 1890 was 782.

Three years later, in 1893, Portal, N. D., situated on the boundary between North Dakota and Canada, was reached, and a junction formed with the Canadian Pacific.

By 1900 the company owned 1,278 miles of road, to which 108 miles were added in 1902, and forty more in 1903. The year following the Winnipeg line was completed, from Glenwood, Minn., to Emerson, Man., a distance of 265 miles. The construction in 1905 was forty miles, largely in North Dakota, and in 1906 it was 149 miles. In 1907 and 1908 the Brooten-Duluth line was completed, being the second of its lines to traverse parts of Stearns county. The next year the entire system of the Wisconsin Central Railway, with a mileage of 1,412, was built, and is known as the Chicago Division. At the present time the "Soo" owns or controls 3,887 miles of railroad.

The first line constructed through Minnesota, from the Twin Cities to North Dakota was in operation in Wright county in 1886.

The Brooten-Duluth branch, begun in 1907, and completed in 1909, gave the central and western part of the county an additional outlet both to the Twin Cities and to Lake Superior. The line was completed from Brooten to the crossing of the Mississippi river, east of Bowlus in Morrison county, in 1907; from the crossing to Moose Lake, Carlton county, in 1908; and to Duluth in 1909.

The road is a consolidation of the Minneapolis & Pacific Railway Company, organized under the general laws of Minnesota in 1884, the Minneapolis & St. Croix Railway Company organized in 1885 under the Minnesota general incorporation laws, the Aberdeen, Bismarck & Northwestern Railroad Company organized under the general laws of the Territory of Dakota, the Menominee & Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company organized under the laws of Michigan, and the Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic Railway Company organized under the laws of Wisconsin, September 12, 1883. The last two companies were consolidated in 1886. William D. Washburn and other capitalists of Minneapolis were the principal financiers of the Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic Railway Company.

The "Soo" line has 707.02 miles east of Minneapolis; 2,214.59 west of Minneapolis; and a Chicago division (Wisconsin Central) of 1,017.44 miles, making a total mileage of 3,939.05.

**Railroad Tax Fiasco.** One of the roads which benefited greatly by the land grants was the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company. By the line located through the southern part of this county, and the one just avoiding its northern border, a large acreage was secured within the county limits, the grant embracing the odd-numbered sections within a limit of six miles on each side of the lines. This, with the large amount embraced in the lands afterward taken under the homestead law, reduced the area taxable by the county to a mere fraction, and in 1867, through some misinterpretation of the terms of the land grant, an effort was made to tax the railroad lands within the county limits, the same as ordinary non-resident lands. They were, therefore, placed on the assessment rolls, returned, and advertised for sale for non-payment of taxes; but the sale was prevented by an injunction served by the railroad company upon the county auditor and treasurer. Litigation followed, the case coming before the June term of the District court, and resulting in a decision in favor of the company. In this contest, H. R. Bigelow appeared for the railroad, and H. L. Gordon for the county. The case was carried to the Supreme court, by appeal, and the action of the lower tribunal confirmed. It was, on the whole, a most unfortunate affair, the most serious aspect of which was not the immediate expense incurred in the suits. By returning a large assessment on real estate, a corresponding tax was required by the state, which, as it was never collected in the county, was never paid into the state treasury, and the state auditor's books long showed a nominal indebtedness from Wright county.

**The Minneapolis & Central Minnesota Railway Company** has surveyed a line from Minneapolis, via Champlin, Monticello, Kimball Prairie, Fair Haven and Maine Prairie, to St. Cloud. The right of way has been secured for practically the entire distance,



and considerable preparatory work has been done at the southern end as far as Champlin. Late in the fall of 1914, work was begun on the section from St. Cloud to Kimball Prairie, and grading pushed as rapidly as possible until freezing weather forced a suspension of operations. It is the intention of the company to resume work as early in the spring of 1915 as the frost is sufficiently out of the ground to permit the use of scrapers, and push it rapidly forward to completion. The line passes through one of the richest and best settled parts of the state, and will be of great advantage to the people along the route. The power used will be gasoline motors, at least for the present, though at a later date electricity may be substituted.

## CHAPTER XIV.

### WRIGHT COUNTY HORTICULTURE.

**Original Conditions—Wild Fruit and Nuts—Pioneer Nurserymen—Difficulties Encountered—Progress Made—Some Valuable Advice—Wright County Members of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society—Exhibitions and Prizes—Varieties Best Adapted to This County—Revised by W. H. Eddy.**

The larger part of Wright county was originally covered with a vast growth of timber, hard-woods of all varieties common to this region and climate. This great forest was broken here and there by splendid prairies, natural meadow lands, marshes, lakes and watercourses.

The natural food supply of fruits, nuts, berries and saps was most abundant, and flowers and shrubs kept the landscape brilliant with color from early spring until late autumn. The shell-bark hickory, the black-walnut, the butternut and the hazelnuts yielded nuts in abundance, the hard-maple produced sap for the making of hundreds of tons of maple sugar, and barks, herbs and roots furnished the Indian with the ingredients for his simple medicines and compounds. Cranberries grew in the marshes in great abundance, and were gathered by the Indians to sell in St. Paul and St. Anthony, long before the white people had settled in this county. The ginseng growing among the trees also proved a welcome source of wealth in the early days.

When the early settlers first came into this county it was believed that no cultivated fruit would ever grow here, and that such fruits as the apple, pear and plum, which in the eastern states they had been accustomed to picking in their back yards, would now have to be obtained, if used at all, from far distant points at heavy transportation expense. The weather conditions



were such that the raising of fruit in Wright county seemed forever out of the question.

The pioneers found here, however, the wild apple, the wild grape, the black currant, the wild plum, the wild strawberry, the smooth and prickly gooseberry, the dwarf June berry, the sand cherry, the choke cherry, the Buffalo berry and the high bush cranberry; and as the trees were cut off, the red and black raspberry, and high bush blackberry increased in profusion.

The native apple was fortunately a good keeper that could be stored and used for a considerable time into the winter; the largest and best flavored made passable sauce, and perhaps as fine a jelly as can be produced from any fruit whatever. The trees were found on the edges of the meadows. The wild grape was as abundant then as it is today, and while very small both in bunch and in berry, was found in sufficient quantity to be used largely in marmalades, jellies and home-made wines. The wild plum was undoubtedly the best of the native fruits, some select kinds having a flavor surpassed by few of the stone fruits of any climate. It was very plentiful among the thickets at the edge of the timber, and along the water courses generally. It was the first of the native fruits to enter the cultivated lists, and through selection and hybridization it has become the basis of the cultivated varieties of the north Mississippi valley. The wild strawberry was abundant in favorable seasons, and while rather soft and difficult to pick, was of such excellent flavor as to be perhaps the highest prized of all the native small fruits. The wild gooseberry, both the smooth and prickly form, was found in considerable abundance throughout the country. A few thrifty farmers transplanted some of these fruits to their gardens.

For many years fruit suitable for eating was considered a luxury to be enjoyed only by people of means. Gradually, however, the heavy timber was cleared off, and soil and climate conditions changed somewhat. But the country was new, much wild land unsubdued, and the climate still uncongenial to fruit trees and varieties from other parts of the country not yet adapted. To this must be added that the cultural methods of the east were unsuited for the healthy development of fruit trees in the Northwest. New methods of culture had to be developed by our pioneers. Much time and energy were lost, and accordingly many years passed by before any permanent results were achieved in horticulture in the state. Western horticulture was given a new impetus by the United States Department of Agriculture with the introduction of Russian varieties of apples and other fruits to our country. It was confidently hoped that some varieties might be found among the many thus introduced that could be successfully grown in the Northwestern States. In the meantime, a dozen horticultural pioneers banded together and started the now great

Minnesota State Horticultural Society in 1866 for their mutual assistance and exchange of ideas and experiences. They went to work with great enthusiasm to try these Russian importations. Although their high expectations were not realized, they found at least some varieties that were considered hardy enough for our northern country. These trees were propagated as rapidly as possible, but it took some years before a sufficient supply was on hand for the trade of the more northern counties. At this time, too, a few varieties of hardy crabapples had been originated, which could safely be planted. The varieties of apples were the Duchess, Tetofsky and Transparent; and of crabs, the Transcendent, Siberian and Hyslop. Now we had at least a few apples that could be tried, but we had no cultivated plums, as all eastern and European varieties failed entirely. What was to be done? Our own native varieties came to the rescue. The woods of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota were searched for the best native kinds and brought under cultivation. The work was successful, and many varieties were now propagated for the trade. As for cultivated grapes and other small fruits, they were still obtained from the east.

From 1868 on, a little more attention was paid to fruit growing. Farmers and townspeople, seeing the possibility of at least being able to raise crabapples, freely bought from the agents who now came annually to solicit orders for stock, and the more so, when in 1869 or 1870 trees bearing large apples were offered for sale. Nurserymen from the southern counties did quite a flourishing business in Wright and other central counties at that time. The varieties that were generally to be had were the Tetofsky, Duchess and Transparent apples, and the Transcendent, Hyslop and Siberian crabs. But horticulture in Wright county, as elsewhere, had its drawbacks; the first venture of growing apples was on the whole not quite successful. For, although some crabs and apples bore well for a few years, blight and other diseases now appeared all over the county and ruined many good trees. This was so much the worse, as the owners did not know what to do to save their trees. It was but natural that quite a number of farmers became discouraged and would not buy and plant any more fruit trees. Yet there were always some people in the county who kept right on trying against all odds. This setback lasted for a long time and not much progress was made in fruit-raising in Wright and surrounding counties for the first ten years. This may be seen from a report written by J. I. Salter of St. Cloud on June 21, 1875, to C. Y. Lacy, secretary of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. After speaking about the injury done to trees from the cold winter, he gives the following fruit list for the central counties of the state: Apples, Duchess; crabs, Transcendent and Hyslop; raspberries, Philadelphia, Brinckle's Orange and Doo-

little ; blackberries, Kittatinny and Wilson ; strawberries, Wilson's Albany, Jucunda, Charles Downing and Hovey's Seedling. With the exception of the apples and crabs, few fruits mentioned by Mr. Salter are now grown. He does not mention any currants and grapes, although they were grown at least to some extent in Wright and neighboring counties.

One of the pioneer nursery salesmen, who labored long and earnestly to promote the culture of fruit in this county and who presented a striking contrast to the methods of many other nursery agents of that time, was Frank Shanley, who, from 1874 to 1880, sold the Transcendent, Hyslop and Siberian varieties. Some of these trees flourished and gave delight to their owners, but many did not survive. It was believed, however, that these varieties represented the height of apple-growing in the county, and that these were the most suitable fruit trees that could be found for Wright county soil and climate.

In the meantime, however, Peter M. Gideon, of Lake Minnetonka, justly called the father of the Minnesota apple industry, had been pursuing his long and patient efforts in originating seedling apples suitable to growing in Minnesota. Among these varieties were the Wealthy, now at the head of the list for commercial planting in Minnesota, and the Peter, an apple similar in color and quality to the Wealthy. Through the work of Mr. Gideon it became apparent to the farmers that there were important lessons to be learned if they were to make the apple a staple crop in Wright county. Trees must be grown that were adapted to the soil and climate conditions, among the necessities being hardness of tree, strong constitutionality to resist blight and sun scald and endure the sudden and severe changes of winter, and the ability to mature in time to avoid the early frosts.

The progress of horticulture in Wright county from 1875 to 1893 was slowly but steadily advancing. One of the main drawbacks was the many unscrupulous agents who palmed off their worthless stock on the unsuspecting farmers. These agents, who never saw the inside of a nursery and knew nothing about fruit trees, utilized their chances for making money. They bought their trees from eastern nurseries in quantities and paid perhaps ten cents a tree, but often sold them to the farmers for one dollar apiece. It would not have been so bad had the trees grown and borne fruit, but being of varieties not at all adapted to our conditions, they lingered for two or three years and then died. The people were simply cheated and humbugged by these sharps, called agents. While some still kept on planting apple trees, many determined not to throw any more money away uselessly on nursery stock. Another reason why we did not advance as fast as was desirable was due to the fact that our southern nurseries, on whom we were dependent for stock, made but little



progress. It takes years to originate and test fruits adapted to our state. With the arrival, however, of our famous Wealthy and some very good crabs as the Whitney, real and lasting progress was being made in horticulture. These apples were propagated as fast as possible and planted in almost every county of the state. A few years later found these apples in many places in the county, doing well and bearing excellent fruit. The farmers would point with pride to their fine, healthy trees with bent-down branches full of luscious apples. These two varieties have done much in removing the old indifference and in making horticulture more popular in our county. However, they were not the only varieties which were sent out during this period; many more were originated and introduced by our experimenters, but none of them ever enjoyed the popularity of our Wealthy. This apple, as mentioned, was originated by Peter Gideon at Lake Minnetonka and is now grown east and west, from the Atlantic to the Pacific ocean. It has become a favorite with every fruit grower, and famous for its excellent qualities and has merited the distinction of being called the "Jonathan of the North."

But man is never satisfied, nor is the horticulturist. Having been successful to some extent, he tried his hand in new experiments, and for that a good opportunity was offered to him in testing new fruits. The United States Department of Agriculture thought it well to try some more Russian varieties of fruits for our middle west. So in 1882 Professor Budd, of Ames, Iowa, made a trip of exploration into the interior of Russia, where the climate is more severe than in Minnesota. He imported many varieties of apples, pears, plums and cherries, which were all tested in the North Central States. Nurserymen and many members of our Horticultural Society were now in their full glory, trying and testing these importations to find some new varieties of fruits for the state, and although their expectations were not realized fully, yet quite a number of apples were found hardy enough for Minnesota, though in other respects they were not just what was wanted. The pears, plums, cherries and many apples did not find the climate of Minnesota congenial for their successful growth. The fruit list for Minnesota was now largely increased and in a few years these new varieties found their way into Wright county and were successfully grown in many towns.

To show what was and could be grown in Wright county at the close of the year 1893, it is only necessary to mention some of the varieties which were recommended for planting in the southern half of the state by the Minnesota Horticultural Society. Of apples we had the Wealthy, Duchess, Hiberna, Tetofsky, Longfield, Christmas, Borovinka, Okabena, Peerless and Patten's Greening. Of crabs and hybrids were mentioned: Virginia, Martha, Early Strawberry, Whitney, Beecher's Sweet and Ar-



lington. Of plums: Desota, Rollingstone, Forest Garden, Wolf, Weaver Ocheeda and Cheney. A similar large number of varieties of the smaller fruits were given. It is true, some of the above sorts were only considered hardy enough for the more southern counties, but all were tried even as far north as Stearns county, which is further north than Wright county, and found to be as hardy as any others that are successfully grown here.

The greatest progress in horticulture has been made in Wright county since 1893, and especially since 1899. Many causes may be advanced for its long strides achieved in fruit culture. One of the main reasons was the educational work of the Minnesota Horticultural Society carried on throughout the state. Before 1893 it scarcely had more than 300 members any given year, but from now on it made a most wonderful progress in its membership, and in 1914 more than 3,000 active horticulturists of the state belonged to this society. It is now the largest horticultural society in the United States. From the very beginning its members worked hard to test all the different varieties of fruits, foreign and native, for the purpose of finding out suitable sorts that could be safely planted in Minnesota. They sowed seeds from fruit trees annually to originate new hardy sorts and encouraged everyone else to do the same, so that we might originate our own pomology which we could not possibly get from other states. Their work was crowned with wonderful success, not only in introducing many sorts from foreign lands but also in originating new varieties adapted to our county and state. It is only necessary to mention such native seedlings now grown in Wright county as the Wealthy, Okabena, Peerless, Patten's Greening and many other sorts not so well known.

The people of Wright county, and for that matter of the state, were, on account of past failures in fruit-growing, to a great extent still in a mood of indifference. It now became necessary to educate the public in this art, to eliminate failures in the future as much as possible, to show the people in a practical way the possibility of more extensive fruit-growing in the state and to arouse a general interest for renewed efforts. There were many persuasive means, foremost being our State Fair. To most people who go there it is a revelation in horticulture, an exhibition of horticultural success never expected to be seen in Minnesota. Many times the visitors from all over the state could be noticed glancing over the long tables in admiration and saying, "Is it possible that these fine apples have all been grown in Minnesota?" Usually they go home with the mental resolve to try again. Next in importance come the county fairs. They, too, are educating the masses and create new interest in horticulture. For the many years of its existence the Minnesota Horticultural Society has spread the gospel of horticulture in the

state by its many publications, its reliable information on horticultural topics and its annual meetings. The influence of this society is now well recognized when one visits the many towns and farms and notices the many fruit trees or orchards bearing an abundance of luscious fruit. Finally, there is another factor that works well for the advancement of horticulture in our county. We mean the lecture corps which visits the principal towns and cities in our state. To this belong practical men who not only lecture on agricultural topics but also make it a point to instruct our farmers how to grow fruits successfully. All these means unite in producing the one desired effect—to educate our people in the art of successful fruit-growing in our county, and we may say that this has been wonderfully accomplished. Our people have now not only a reliable fruit list, but know how to grow these fruits to perfection. It is comparatively but a few years ago that there was not an apple grown in Wright county; it was not even thought possible, and now the crop is both large and important.

Herewith is appended the list of fruits which was adopted by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society December 3, 1914, for the guidance of planters:

Apples. Of the first degree of hardiness: Duchess, Hibernial, Patten's Greening, Okabena. Of the second degree of hardiness: Wealthy, Malinda, Anisim, Iowa Beauty, Lowland Raspberry, Jewell's Winter, Milwaukee. Valuable in some locations: Wolf River, Yellow Transparent, Longfield, Northwestern Greening, Tetofsky, Peerless. Most profitable varieties for commercial planting in Minnesota: Wealthy, Duchess, Patten's Greening, Okabena, Anisim. Recommended for top-working on hardy stocks: Wealthy, Malinda, N. W. Greening, Stayman's Winesap, Grimes' Golden, Milwaukee, McIntosh. Varieties for trial: Eastman, Evelyn, Windsor Chief, Gilbert.

Crabs and Hybrids. For general cultivation: Florence, Whitney, Early Strawberry, Sweet Russet, Transcendent. Varieties for trial: Faribault, Dartt, Success.

Plums and Hybrid Plums. For general cultivation: De Sota, Forest Garden, Wolf (freestone), Wyant, Stoddard, Terry. Most promising for trial: Compass Cherry, Hanska, Opata, Sapa.

Grapes. First degree of hardiness: Beta, Janesville. Second degree of hardiness: Moore's Early, Campbell's Early, Brighton, Delaware, Worden, Concord, Moore's Diamond, Wyoming Red.

Raspberries. Red varieties: King, Turner, Miller, Loudon, Minnetonka Ironclad, Sunbeam. Black and purple varieties: Palmer, Gregg, Older, Columbian, Cumberland.

Blackberries. Ancient Briton, Snyder, Eldorado.

Currants. White Grape, Victoria, Long Bunch Holland, Pomona, Red Cross, Perfection, London Market.

Gooseberries. Houghton, Downing, Champion, Pearl, Carrie.

Strawberries. Perfect varieties: Bederwood, Enhance, Lovett, Splendid, Glen-Mary, Clyde, Senator Dunlap. Imperfect varieties: Crescent, Warfield, Haverland, Marie. Everbearing varieties for trial: Progressive, Superb, American.

Native Fruits. Valuable for trial: Dwarf Juneberry, Sand Cherry, Buffalo Berry, High Bush Cranberry.

Nut Fruits. Shellbark Hickory, Black Walnut, Butternut.

Considerable interest has been taken in growing evergreens from seed. This is not so easy to accomplish as it may appear to many. Even with the closest attention to particulars, failures are unavoidable. In order that the seed shall sprout it is necessary to give it forest conditions. For that purpose something like an arbor is built over the seedbed, with laths excluding about half of the sunlight. On the well-prepared bed the seed may be sown broadcast or in rows. The seed is rolled down lightly and covered with fine sand one-fourth of an inch or with moist sawdust. The bed is now well watered and covered with clean hay or straw. The bed must never get dry. In three or four weeks the seed comes up and the cover is removed. The young plants should not get too much water or disease will set in and all may damp off. To avoid loss, weeding every week or ten days is necessary. In the fall the seedlings are covered with straw for protection during the first winter. When the plants are two or three years old they are ready for forest or grove planting. The best evergreens are the White, Norway, Scotch and Bull Pines; the Norway, White, and Colorado blue spruces; the Douglas and Balsam firs, the European Larch, and the White and Red Cedar. All pines do better on sandy land and all spruces do better on good fertile soil if it is not too dry. For Wright county we would recommend the Scotch pine for a windbreak, as it is one of the fastest growers. If two or three rows of them are planted with the trees only six feet apart, they will give entire satisfaction.

For lawns we would suggest to plant as single specimens, the Colorado blue or White spruce, the White pine and the Douglas fir.

At the present time we do not know what Wright county has in store for us; we do not realize its possibilities in fruit growing as yet. But Wright county, with its numerous lakes, with its open prairies and extensive forests, is one of the best adapted counties in Minnesota for horticulture. As it is now one of the foremost dairying counties, so it will be one of the best fruit-growing counties in the state. Since we have accomplished so much in a few years, we may confidently and reasonably expect to accomplish more in the time to come. There is no doubt that we have the land for it. Are you skeptical? Walk out into the woods; there you will find native varieties of all kinds: straw-



berries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, cherries, thorn-apples, hazelnuts, grapevines and many others. Now all these native fruits would not grow there if the soil were not adapted to their requirements. As for quality, it is a law of nature that fruits grown at their northern limits are better than the same fruits grown further south. This is why our Minnesota strawberries, for instance, are much better than those from Louisiana. "But you cannot change the cold winters, which are so injurious to our fruits," it is said. Yes, this is very true, we cannot change the cold winters, but we can change the fruits so they will stand the winters. This is just the very thing that is now being done at the Minnesota State Fruit Breeding Farm at Zumbra Heights near Lake Minnetonka. And how is this to be accomplished? By trying to combine the hardiness of our native fruits with the good qualities of the cultivated varieties. Take, for instance, the plum. The flowers of the wild plum from the woods are crossed by hand with the pollen from a California or a Japanese plum. The resulting seeds contain now the qualities of both plums, hardiness to stand our winters and quality to suit our taste. By planting these seeds we may obtain what we want, a good hardy plum tree that will stand our winters and bear excellent plums akin either to the California or Japanese plum. But many trials are necessary to find one plum in which both of these qualities are dominant. In this manner the work of fruit-breeding is carried on with all other fruits. Good results have already been obtained, although the work of fruit-breeding has only been carried on for six years. There are now originated new strawberries, blackberries, raspberries, grapes and plums. There are now thousands of hybrid trees and plants growing at the Fruit Breeding Farm; all are tried and only the few good ones will be propagated and sent out to the trial stations for their final trial before they are recommended for general planting in the state. Should this work be carried on for a sufficient number of years, it is very probable that Minnesota will be able to grow some of the choicest fruits in the United States.

The following suggestions to the horticulturist are from the pen of Father John B. Katzner, O. S. B., of St. John's University, who conducts the Experiment Station at Collegeville:

The location of an orchard is of the greatest importance. The best place is the northeast slope of a hill. If not available, a northern or an eastern slope is all right. Should there be no hill close to the house a piece of level ground about the premises may be selected. The worst location for an orchard is a southern or western slope of a hill and low ground. Trees need water at all times and will not succeed on a dry hillside, nor can they bear wet feet in low places, where, too, they are exposed to all the early and late frosts and the greater difference of temperature



between day and night. The orchard or trees in a farmer's garden need sufficient air drainage and at the same time protection from the strong winds and cold blasts of winter, hence a good partial wind-break is much to be desired. We should aim to give the trees the best location available and sufficient protection.

The best soil is black loam with a clay subsoil of an open texture. The clay should contain about 20 to 30 per cent of sand, so that the water can percolate right down deep. Should the clay be so stiff that no water would go through it, but rather accumulate on top of the impervious clay, the trees would suffer from too much water. Some subsoils consist of a hardpan and will not do for trees. The hardpan should first be broken up by a charge of dynamite before the trees are planted on this soil. Some subsoils are rather sandy but contain some clay; this may make a fairly good location. Avoid all subsoils of pure sand and gravel, for these soils hold no water, it goes right through as fast as it falls. If you must use such a soil, plow the top soil together in high reaches twenty feet wide. This may be the only way for you to grow apples on such a soil.

The land for an orchard should have been in cultivation for a few years and its wild nature subdued. If you have a piece of sod land that would be handy for an orchard, break it up and crop it for two years, then plow it in the fall and make ready for planting in the spring. Order your trees in the fall and heel them in over winter. On a dry place dig a slanting hole two feet deep for the roots, tapering to six inches for the tops. Lay the trees in and put some soil on and between the roots. On these trees you may lay some more. When the trees are all in and the roots covered a little with ground, place some pieces of boards crosswise over the entire trees and fill in the hole with ground and somewhat higher, so that no water will stay there. It is good to put some straw on it for protection, which ought to be removed early in the spring. The trees will come out of their winter quarters in the very best condition for planting and are far ahead of those ordered in the spring. Plant the trees twenty feet apart in rows running north and south and the rows should be twenty-five feet apart. If many trees are to be planted, plow crosswise the proper distance apart, and at the point of intersection dig the holes large and wide enough for the roots. If only a few trees are to be planted the holes may be made with the shovel just as needed for planting, that the ground will not dry out. It is not impossible to plant trees in sod. On steep hillsides trees should be planted in sod to prevent washouts by heavy rains. Dig up the soil the size of a wagonwheel, spade the ground deep, make the hole in the centre and plant your tree. Set the trees about four inches deeper than they stood in the

nursery, cut off any broken root in such a way that the cut looks downward. Spread out the roots the way they grew and work the top soil among them. Fill in gradually till the roots are covered about four or five inches deep, then firm the ground solid with your boots and weight. The last two or three inches of soil are kept loose. The ground should dish toward the trees to hold the water from the rains. No subsoil and no manure are used for planting, nor is water necessary, when the ground is reasonably moist; should the ground be dry, then of course water would have to be applied.

After planting, the tops should be pruned. Leave only four strong branches six inches long. The leader, too, should be cut back to grow a low-topped tree, and this is of great advantage later. Trees coming from the nursery in the spring should be put in water over night or buried in moist ground for two days before planting. Trees should be cultivated often; should this be impossible, put a mulch of straw about them to keep the ground cool and moist. In planting, the trees should be well inclined towards the one o'clock sun, or should be staked so that they will not lean over to the northeast from the winds and get sunscalded. It is well to put on a wooden veneer or any other shade to protect the trees from the sun, mice and rabbits at all times. In the fall the trees may be whitewashed up to the branches. It is well to look over your trees sometimes, for bugs and worms might get in their work.

This method of planting, which should be done in early spring, may be recommended for all fruit trees. For plums and their hybrids, if not originated from the sand cherry, we would suggest to use a richer and moister soil for their location. If it be a little sandy it would not hurt. For plums a somewhat lower ground may be used, provided it is not too wet and is free from late frosts, for plums flower early. Cherries delight in high sandy locations, but the ground should be fertile. Nothing more need be said about cherries, as we have no variety sufficiently hardy in our county.

Grapes prefer a sunny location, a south slope of a hill is the best and should be well protected from the cold north and southwest winds. Only in such locations do they develop to perfection. They require a fertile but somewhat sandy, gravelly soil. Their propagation is quite simple. While fruit trees must be grafted, it is only necessary for the grape to cut off a well-grown piece of the vine from last year's growth about ten inches long, and stick it in the sandy soil up to the last bud. As a rule, many such cuttings will grow and make nice plants by fall. Protect them over winter and in spring they may be transplanted in the vineyard or garden. The vines should be set apart at least eight feet each way. The grapevines should be pruned, laid down

every fall and covered with ground for protection over winter. The first fall they should be cut back to two buds, the second fall to one foot above ground. The third year they will begin to bear. In the fall one shoot, or, if the vine is strong, two shoots may be cut back to three good buds, and all other shoots cut away entirely. Do this pruning every year and always in the fall. As the vines grow stronger more bearing wood may be left on, but remember that at least nine-tenths of the wood grown last season ought to be cut away, if you desire nice bunches with large berries. A trellis should be built for the vines, to which they are tied in the spring. A fence with three barbless wires set up along the rows of grapevines will do.

Raspberries and blackberries may be propagated by suckers or root divisions. Currants and gooseberries are generally grown from cuttings just like the grapevines. But the cuttings are made as soon as the leaves drop off about the middle of August, and planted at once. They will be rooted by late fall and may be transplanted next spring or better grown another year. They should be planted four feet apart in rows and the rows six feet apart. Mulching is a good thing for them. Raspberries and blackberries should be laid down and covered. The land may be of a sandy nature but rich in plant food.

Strawberry plants should always be obtained from nursery men, unless you want to grow them yourself from plants that were never allowed to bear fruit. The land for strawberries should be made extra rich, as they are great feeders. They prefer a sandy loam. The rows should be about four feet apart and the plants in the row about eighteen inches. Take care to spread out the roots well in planting, which may be done with a spade, and just so deep that the crown of the plant is on a level with the ground. Cultivate frequently, but do not allow them to bear the first season. When the runners appear, spread them out so that the new plants will grow about six inches apart. Keep the walk between the rows free from plants and weeds. The path should be at least a foot wide. Late in the fall the strawberry beds are to be covered with clean straw or marsh hay. In the spring this cover is raked off and partly left in the paths. The plants will now grow vigorously, bloom and ripen lots of fruit by the end of June. Strawberries need much water just when the berries are about ripening. Should it not rain frequently, water must be applied rather freely. After the berries are picked, the bed is mowed, and the leaves removed and burned. Strawberries may bear a second year. For that purpose plow and harrow between the rows, leaving of the old bed only a strip one foot wide. New runners will soon grow new plants and the bed may be treated as the year before. After the second year it is better to plant a new bed.



There are many people in the county who like to experiment a little for themselves in growing fruit trees from seed. Some have already tried it, but for the greater part the results are not satisfactory, for the new fruits do not come true from the seed. As a rule they revert back to some of their worthless ancestors. But many times very good fruits may be grown that way and this work should be encouraged. The seeds should be taken from the finest, well-colored and best apples of its kind grown in Wright county. Only the most perfect seeds should be planted one and a half inches deep in October. They will come up in the spring. When the little trees have grown five or six leaves, they should be transplanted at least a foot apart in rows and cultivated. Those that grow a straight, vigorous, strong and clean stem with large, thick, glossy leaves are the ones to grow seedling fruit from. The others are no good, but may be used for root-grafting. As this work is of much value, the Plant Breeders' Auxiliary was started a few years ago and affiliated to the Minnesota State Horticultural Society. Any one interested may join it. To encourage this work many premiums are offered for new seedling apples and other fruits annually by the State Fair, and other premiums from \$100 to \$1,000 by the Minnesota State Horticultural Society.

Every one interested in horticulture should know how to graft and grow his own trees. This is easy to learn and saves him many a dollar for nursery stock. We would suggest to get Professor Green's Amateur Fruit Growing. You may have it for a premium, if you join the Horticultural Society. This book will teach you not only how to graft and grow your own trees, but everything a fruitgrower should know. We can give here only general directions. Sow the seeds from hardy crabapples in the fall for growing the seedlings. Late in the fall next year take out the strongest ones, cut back the top and roots a little, pack the roots in moist sawdust and keep them in a cool cellar. Cut the scions from apple trees you wish to grow late in the fall, too, but there should be no frost in the trees. The scions should be strong tips of branches grown last season and should be kept the same way as the roots. In February you may do the grafting in your room. This is done by making a slanting cut three-quarters of an inch long at the collar of the root, make a similar cut at the end of the scion, which should be four inches long, so that both cuts fit fairly well together or cover each other. Make a perpendicular cut in the center of the cut of the root and scion and interlock them by inserting the tongue of one into the slit of the other so that bark and wood fit well together, at least on one side. Wind a waxed strip of cloth over the entire cut part and the graft is finished. After grafting, put them back again in the moist sawdust in the cellar. In early spring plant the



grafts in rows, open the ground with a spade, set down the graft to the last bud, firm the ground and cultivate. It will take but a week or two until the grafts start to grow, provided the work has been done well. Should small apple or plum trees already growing in the garden be grafted above ground it is necessary to put an extra coat of grafting wax over the tie, that the grafts will not dry out. There are many different methods of grafting, but the principle is always the same. A good grafting wax may be made by melting four ounces of yellow beeswax, three ounces of rosin and one ounce of pure tallow together. Mix well and run yarn or strips of cloth one-third inch wide through the wax. The strips should only be saturated with wax, and as too much wax will adhere, pull the strips through between two sticks.

To round out these gleanings, to make them more useful to the farmers, we should not omit to write about some of the worst menaces to our fruit trees. We do not mean bugs, worms and insects in general, for these can be controlled with chemicals, and in particular cases the proper remedies will be suggested by the State Entomologist, but we mean to say that blight has been and is still responsible for the loss of many of our fruit trees. Since the initial years of horticulture in Wright county many thousand trees have been planted. Where are they now? Gone, mostly killed by blight. It is not so much the cold, for we have trees hardy in top and root which are able with a little care to withstand the cold and outgrow an occasional injury from frost. But it is blight, which is in evidence in so many of our orchards and gardens some years, that causes our trees to go down. In mid-summer, when everything is growing vigorously our trees are stricken, the leaves wither, turn brown, as if seared, the branches get dry, the infection spreads from tree to tree, and in a year or two the orchard is only a sad ruin of its former health and vigor. What can we do to save our trees? In the first decade of horticulture our fruit growers were simply at a loss what to do, and even now we have no sure remedy for this condition. Yet we can do much to save the trees by cutting out the blighted branches, by being vigilant and ever ready to remove any part of the tree on which blight makes its reappearance. As blight is an infection, it becomes necessary to disinfect the knife after every cut by the use of kerosene or other means. The infected branches should be cut off about six inches below the infection and all branches and leaves burned. Only thorough work will be successful in saving the trees and eradicating blight.

Sunscald also causes much damage to our fruit trees. It cracks the bark on the south side of the tree, generally in early spring; in summer the bark drops off, the wood is exposed and decay sets in. Many shade and other trees may be seen injured in that way on the south side from the branches down to the

ground. Many apple trees may be observed leaning over to the northeast, with but a few green branches on that side, while on the opposite side the stem and branches are dead. Such trees are an eyesore and will soon pass out of existence. With a little care this injury may be readily prevented by inclining the trees at the time of planting to the one o'clock sun, by shading the stems with anything handy except tar paper, by encouraging branches to grow on that side, by white-washing the stems in the fall. This latter treatment may also be recommended against many insects and mice. Always try to keep your trees in a healthy, vigorous condition and they will reward you with bountiful crops.

Now we have to pay a little attention to our large fruit list. A beginner in fruit growing, not knowing the different varieties, would find it very difficult to select the proper ones. Though they are all recommended and may be planted, they are not all equally good in quality, in bearing, keeping and hardiness. For his little orchard the beginner wants the very best trees. We shall now assist him and mention only the best bearing trees in the order of their keeping quality, which is from one to five months. Should a man want to plant a half dozen apple trees on his town lot, we would suggest: One Duchess, one Okabena, one Patten's Greening and three Wealthy. For planting a dozen trees, double the above number. For an orchard of twenty-five apple trees and six plums we would select two Duchess, two Okabena, five Patten's Greenings and fifteen Wealthy. Should a few crabs be desirable, two Whitney, four Florence and two Transcendent crabs may be selected. Of plums, DeSota, Forest Garden or Wolf will be all right. If an orchard of 100 trees is to be planted, we would suggest five Duchess, five Okabena, twenty-five Patten's Greenings, ten Anisim, fifty Wealthy and five Malinda. Should crabs be planted, the above number may be reduced and Whitney, Florence and Transcendent crabs planted instead. For larger orchards, plant liberally of the Wealthy, as this apple may be kept till February with a little care and is the best one we can grow, and always sells for the highest price. For plums, every variety from the general list is all right. As grapevines, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries should be protected over winter, it does not matter much which varieties are planted. Yet we would not plant the Concord, as it does not get ripe every year, but we would prefer the Janesville and the Worden, and of strawberries the Splendid and Dunlap.

In conclusion we may suggest, not to plant many of other varieties if you desire to get much and fine fruit from a few trees. Protect the grapes and small fruits well over winter, except the currant and gooseberries, the bushes of which need only be tied

together. Leave new sorts with high prices alone, if you don't want to be humbugged, but rather follow the advice of those having experience.

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The first nursery in Wright county was the Howard Lake Nursery, established in 1887, by E. J. Cutts and A. P. Ball. Two years later the partnership was dissolved, leaving Mr. Cutts the sole owner. Mr. Cutts came from Maine to Minnesota largely for the purpose of benefiting his health. Soon he became interested in outdoor work as a nurseryman. A man of high ideals, a thorough lover of nature, conscientious in all his undertakings, and willing to sacrifice much for the benefit of his fellowmen, he set at work with a will, and soon became an extensive fruit raiser. At one time he had three and a half acres planted to grapes, then the largest vineyard in the county. He believed that the first place to try out a tree or a plant was the nursery. Thus year by year he labored. He was horticultural lecturer for the State Institute, and from 1892 to 1896 traveled with the Farmers' Institute Corps, and through lectures on horticulture, demonstrated in a practical way the things that he had learned from the successes and failure of plant life in this county, a subject of which he had a wide knowledge. He was editor of the horticultural department of the *Northwestern Agriculturist* and the *Farmers' Institute Annual*. He died suddenly, September 22, 1897, at the age of fifty-three years. The nursery was then sold to W. L. Taylor. In 1906 it was purchased by W. H. Eddy, the present owner.

The Wright County Nursery, with its splendid orchard, is located about four miles south of Cokato, and is owned by John Eklof.

Wright county people have taken a prominent part in promoting interest in fruit culture throughout the state. Among the residents of this county who are active in the affairs of the Minnesota State Horticultural Society may be mentioned: Harold Simmons, J. A. McVeety, A. N. Carter, A. W. Richardson, A. Engell, L. W. Terry, W. J. Wildung, W. H. Eddy, G. A. Koenig and Julius Stholl, of Howard Lake; J. W. Beckman, Nels Munson and John Eklof, of Cokato; Dr. P. O'Hair, of Waverly; Ellsworth Seranton, of Montrose; C. A. Brunkow, Walter Burrows, Albert Czanstowshi, Mrs. Freda Marki, P. R. Peterson, J. H. Quinn, Charles Sell and Rev. Mathias Savs, of Delano; Anna L. Allen, Mrs. William Davies, Mrs. Kate Denny, Rev. Joseph A. Heinz, T. W. Ingersoll, M. F. Lowe and Mrs. James Mulqueeney, of Buffalo; John A. Ferguson, Mrs. Emma Maddy, S. H. McGuire, R. Shannon and Fred Shaddock, of Annandale; F. C. Erkel, John Wilson and J. L. Ludescher, of Rockford; and S. Erickson, of Hasty.

Great interest has been taken in horticultural exhibits at the county fair, and the horticultural display takes up more than its share of the space in the agricultural building. Wright county people have also made extensive displays of fruit at the Minnesota State Fair, and have won many prizes.

Through a careful testing out of the various kinds of fruit grown in the nursery of W. H. Eddy in Howard Lake, it has been demonstrated that the following varieties are doing well in this county and can be grown successfully commercially:

Apples. Wealthy, Duchess, Okabena, Patten's Greening, Malinda, Northwestern Greening, Eddy, Longfield, Anisim. Iowa Beauty, University, Jewell's Winter, Whitney No. 20, Virginia and Florence.

Plums. DeSoto, Forest Garden, Wolf, Yyant, Surprise, Terry, Sapa, Opata and Hanska.

Grapes. Beta, Hungarian, Janesville, Very Hardy, More's Early, Campbell's Early, Brighton, Delaware, Worden, Concord.

Raspberries. King, Miller, Loudon, Commercial Red, Sunbeam, Ohta, Older and Columbian.

Blackberries. Ancient Britton, Snyder, Stone's Hardy and Eldorado.

Currants. White Grape, Cherry, Victoria, Long Bunch Holland, Pomona, Perfection and London Market.

Gooseberries. Houghton, Downing, Pearl and Carrie.

Strawberries. Senator Dunlap, Bederwood, Splendid, Glen Mary.

Everbearing Strawberries. Progressive, Superb and American.

Native Fruits. Dwarf June Berry, Sand Cherry, Buffalo Berry and High Bush Cranberry.

Nut Trees. Shellbark Hickory, Black Walnut and Butternut.

Wright county has as good a soil as can be found for growing fruit, a fact that has already been fully demonstrated. At the present time there are over 8,000 bearing apple trees within a tract of land two miles square about Howard Lake.

Horticulture, in its true sense, brings out the beauties and comforts of enlightened homes, and in this regard the progress made in Wright county is worthy of admiration.

In the past fifteen years a wonderful change has been wrought. Fruit is now one of the staple products of the county, and there is scarcely a farmer who does not own a few trees with which to supply his family. In fact, an ample supply of fruit is now at the command of every tiller of the soil in the county.

Looking backward over the progress of fifteen years, the horticulturists of the county predict that the possibilities of the next fifteen years are almost boundless.



## CHAPTER XV.

**AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT.**

**Early Difficulties—Present Advantages—A Farming Community  
Dawn of Prosperity—Farm Names—Statistics—Assessment  
Rolls—Wealth of the Farmers—Crops and Live Stock.**

Wright county is situated in the south central part of the state, about forty miles west of Minneapolis and St. Paul, being connected therewith by the Great Northern and "Soo" railroads. The soil is a black and sandy loam with a clay subsoil. The surface is gently rolling, interspersed with numerous lakes. The county is well drained by the Mississippi, Clearwater and Crow rivers, with their tributaries. The area of the county is 713.97 square miles, or 456,939.32 acres, of which 424,383.82 acres are land and 32,585.5 acres are water. The land surface is divided into 3,814 farms at an average value per acre of \$44.89. Nearly every farm home in the county is supplied with United States rural free delivery and local and long distance telephones. The population of the county is about 30,000.

Wright county is located in what was at one time known as the "Big Woods" country. Nearly all the timber has been cut off and the land cleared up, until today it has the appearance of a prairie county, though forests still abound. The soil is of rich fertility and abundant crops of wheat, oats, rye, barley, etc., are harvested. Of late years corn has taken the lead and thousands of acres are successfully grown each year. Wright county is blessed with good roads, its population is of a thrifty, prosperous class, and land values are advancing rapidly in this county.

Wright county was generously endowed by nature with the elements most essential to the growth, development and prosperity of a state, or any of its subdivisions. It has a rich soil—a warm loam which responds readily to the stimulating action of air and moisture, underlaid by clay which maintains the soil's durability. It has both groves and open land fairly distributed, by which the farmer is enabled to supply himself with timber for fuel and building uses and with open land for cultivation. It is well watered by rivers and creeks—the Mississippi river, the Clearwater river and the Crow river passing along its border or meandering tortuously through township after township, as though purposeful to do the greatest good to the greatest number. Within its boundaries are more than two hundred beautiful lakes, most of which are fringed by woods, adding to the scenic attractions of the neighborhood as well as affording food for the settler and rare sport for the angler, as all are abundantly stocked with fish—bass, pike, croppies, pickerel and other varieties. There

are also a number of trout streams, which in the season attract those best skilled in the use of the rod and line. It is the policy of the state to furnish free of cost "fry" of the most desirable kinds of fish, so that the lakes and streams may always be kept well stocked.

The surface of the country is gently rolling, there being few high hills and very little waste land that cannot be made valuable by drainage. There are thousands of acres of meadows from which nutritious hay is made, although most farmers are raising the tame grasses, both for hay and for the enriching of their land. The natural roads are fairly good, but an intelligent policy of road building has been adopted by the state which will be of great advantage. A liberal state fund, to be supplemented by local taxes, will provide means by which in a very few years these county roads can be made equal to the best.

The rural telephone reaches practically every farm house, which, with rural mail delivery, places the farmer in close touch with the great markets and with the current of affairs of the outside world. There is no longer any isolation such as existed in the early days when pioneering meant privation; no longer any need for the denial of many of the luxuries as well as the comforts of life. The farmer can have his daily newspaper and his daily market reports; he can have the advantage of the circulating library, and his table can be supplied with whatever the village or city market may have to offer. The changes of the half century have been more marked in scarcely any direction than in the conditions which surround life on the farm. The plodding ox which did the field and farm work has disappeared; the gang plow, the mower, the seeder, the harvester and the steam thresher are doing the work so laboriously and imperfectly done by the scythe, the cradle, the hand-sower, the flail and the horse-power thresher. The buggy, the carriage and now the automobile are almost universal among the conveniences of the farm, while the sewing machine, the organ and the piano are familiar objects in the inner life of the farm home. The future doubtless holds still more in the way of conveniences and comforts, but it can give nothing beyond what the great service the farmer has rendered and is rendering the country in the way of its development merits. There cannot but be deep regret, however much it is in the nature of things, that so few of those who bore the heat and burden of the day in the years of beginnings, have survived to enjoy the fruits which their labors produced. "Their epitaphs are writ in furrows

"Deep and wide  
The wheels of progress have passed on:  
The silent pioneer is gone.

His ghost is moving down the trees,  
And now we push the memories  
Of bluff, bold men who dared and died  
In foremost battle, quite aside."

Wright county is acknowledged as being among the best and most prosperous stock-raising and agricultural counties in Minnesota. Its people are wide awake and keep step with the progressive march of the times in all that pertains to a civilization of happiness, industry and culture. The first permanent settlers of the county were farmers, and their object in coming was to till the soil.

All had many lessons to learn. Many of the pioneers were from foreign countries, and all the conditions were new. Some were farmers from the eastern states, and they too found circumstances absolutely changed. Some were men who had previously been engaged in other occupations, but who saw in the opening of Minnesota an opportunity to secure a farm, together with the health and longevity that come from outdoor life. All of them, regardless of their previous circumstances, were able and willing to work; they had industry and courage and they were determined to win.

In the face of obstacles of which they had previously no knowledge they started to carve their fortunes in the wilderness. The country was new, there was no alternative but that success must be won from the soil, which was their only wealth and their only help. There were among the early comers a few money-lenders, a few speculators and a few traders, but everyone else, even the lawyers, the doctors and the ministers, must wrest their living from the earth. And in spite of all the obstacles and inconveniences, although the whole aim of the farming community has changed, and notwithstanding the fact that in the face of many disasters thousands of the pioneers left the county, those who stayed, and those who have come in since, have met with unbounded success. Nor is the end yet reached, for the county has in its agricultural and dairying resources a mine of wealth yet undeveloped, which when the years roll on, will grow more and more valuable as the people become, through scientific methods, more and more able to utilize it.

Most of the early settlers located in the Big Woods. Through the dense forest or over a winding trail they made their way, fording brooks, passing through swamps, cutting away fallen trees and swimming rivers, until they reached their chosen location. There they lived in their wagons or in a temporary brush lean-to while they felled the trees and erected a cabin. Ofttimes an axe and a grub hoe were their only tools. The cabins were usually erected without nails or metal of any kind. Sometimes the win-

dows were covered with paper, sometimes there were no windows. The doors consisted of split poles nailed to a cross strip usually swung on leather hinges. The fire place was in one end, and as the ventilation was not always good the cabin was often filled with smoke.

The floor was of trampled earth. Furniture was home made, bunks and tables usually being crude contrivances swung from the walls. A loft overhead was usually provided as a sleeping place for the children. The roofs were usually of brush or shakes, which in heavy storms freely admitted the wind and rain.

Wild game was the principal food, corn was made into meal in a coffee-grinder, pork and bacon were luxuries, coffee was almost unknown, and flour was obtained only with the greatest difficulty. Often the pioneers walked to St. Anthony or St. Paul, and brought provisions home on their backs.

The cabin erected, the next thought was to clear the land. Trees were cut down and burned, the stumps were left to decay, and the crops were put in among the stumps. Where brush land was encountered, it was broken and grubbed. The natural meadows furnished hay.

A few fortunate ones owned the oxen and the wagons with which they came. Most of them, however, hired some one to bring them here. Many of the men walked here, and lived alone until they had erected a cabin, and then hired someone to bring their families. Some were single men who as soon as their homes were established went back after their brides. Some continued to be bachelors, and kept house as best they could.

Those who had no oxen had a difficult time in clearing away the logs. After a year or two some of them bought oxen, others bought calves and raised them until they were able to help with the farm work. Sometimes a cow and a steer would be hitched together. The people who had cows were fortunate in that they had a supply of milk for their children, and an opportunity to make butter. Some had a pig or two, and a few brought chickens. Sometimes in the winter the animals had to be brought into the cabins to keep them from perishing in the cold.

The settlers on the prairies had somewhat different experiences, as instead of cutting the trees, they had to break the tough soil. Some of the prairie settlers were men of means who came to farm on a large scale, with a view to immediate profits. But the markets were far away, transportation was difficult, prices paid for farm produce at the trading points were low. Nearly all of these well-to-do prairie settlers soon lost their property on foreclosed mortgages, and left the country broken in spirit and in pocket-book.

For the small farmer, the man who hoped for nothing more than that he might make a living while developing his farm, pros-



perity seemed about to dawn, when there came a terrible set-back.

In 1856 the grasshoppers devastated the county, leaving less than half a crop. By the close of the year 1857, settlements had sprung up in the central, southern and eastern portions of the county, but during the general depression of business following the financial crash of 1857, many of the early settlers were driven to the necessity of abandoning their claims, and seeking more favorable localities, where labor offered a reward commensurate with their wants. The settlers who remained went through the distressing hardships of the winter of 1857-58, when the grasshopper raids, the financial crisis, and the cold weather all contributed to the privations of the pioneers.

In 1858 and 1859 the crops were better, and when Gov. Alexander Ramsey issued his Thanksgiving proclamation in 1860, the soil of Wright county had brought forth its increase in abundant measure.

But another disaster impended. In 1859, the lands came into market, and from inability to pay the usual Government price, many claimants were obliged to quit their partially developed homes, and seek locations elsewhere. With the meager opportunities for lucrative employment outside, and the difficulty attending the opening of a farm in the dense woodlands, it is not strange that many found it impossible to maintain their families while as yet their scanty clearings furnished so little with which to keep the wolf from the door. And so they departed, and were succeeded by others more fortunate, who reaped whatever of reward their toils produced. It was about this time, however, that the ginseng buyers arrived. Soon men, women and children were digging for the root, lands were paid for, provisions were purchased, everyone had ready money, and though to a certain extent farming operations were suspended, an era of prosperity dawned.

Then came the darkest days of all. The outbreak of the Civil war called the able bodied men, and on the heels of this was the Indian uprising which twice nearly depopulated the county.

In 1867 the settlers in the western part of the county suffered from a famine. Many of the settlers had come the previous year with the expectation of earning money on the railroad, but as the railroad work was delayed, the people for a while were in almost a starving condition.

In 1871, a tornado swept a part of the county and did great damage, and it was not long afterward when the grasshoppers again ravaged the county. Then, too, at various times, the pigeons, the gophers, the blackbirds, the prairie chickens, the potato bug, the cut worm and other grubs and insects, the rats and the mice have all done serious damage. For many years also the climate presented many difficulties. Many crops had to be acclimated to this northern belt. Nearly all the settlers had been

accustomed to longer summers, and it was hard to adjust their farming operations to the changed conditions.

But in spite of all these obstacles, Wright county is today, as stated, one of the foremost agricultural and dairying counties in the state. Gradually wheat has given way to corn, diversified farming now occupies the attention of the rural population, and dairying is the paramount occupation.

The farms of Wright county are similar to the farms of any other county having a rich soil. It has its good farms and its poor farms. Or, better stated, it has its good farmers and its poor farmers. Agriculture, like every other trade or profession, has its successes and its failures, but perhaps not as many complete failures.

The high altitude gives to Wright county an ideal climate. Its mean temperature for summer is 70 degrees, the same as middle Illinois, Ohio, and southern Pennsylvania. The extreme heat that is felt in these states is here tempered by the breezes of the elevated plateau. Its higher latitude gives two hours more of sunshine than at Cincinnati. This, with an abundance of rainfall, 26.36 inches annually, on a rich soil, accounts for the rapid and vigorous growth of crops and their early maturity. There is a uniformity of temperature during the winter season in southern Minnesota, with bright sunshine, dry atmosphere, good sleighing and infrequent thaws that make life a pleasure in this bracing, healthy climate.

There was a time in Wright county, when, like all new lands, the first consideration was to build good barns for the housing of the flocks and herds, and the home was the most inconspicuous object in the landscape. As the farmers prospered, the log house disappeared, and now there are few log houses in the entire county. Now the farmer's house vies with the city residence, and has many of the modern conveniences. Where electric light and power cannot be secured, gasoline engines furnish power, and a number of farm houses are lighted by their own gas plants. By the use of elevated tanks in the house or barn, or pneumatic tanks in cellars, farm houses often have all the sanitary conveniences of a house in town. Farmers realize the value of keeping their property in the best of shape. Houses and barns are well painted, lawns are carefully kept and flower gardens show that the people recognize that the things which beautify add a value to life as well as to property.

### FARM NAMES.

Many of the farms in Wright county have been given names. In order that the names might be perpetuated, many of the owners have registered the names at the courthouse. The names already registered are:

Oak Grove Farm, A. Thorp, section 21, township 121, range 23. Fairview Farm, Isaac A. Barberg, section 18, township 119, range 28. Oak Hill Farm, Emil H. Ek, section 4, township 118, range 28. Lakewood, Gust Swan, section 23, township 119, range 28. Spring Brook Stock Farm, Emil R. Olson, sections 10, 15 and 16, township 119, range 26. The Midway Farm, John N. Nelson, sections 1 and 12, township 118, range 28. Sunset Park Farm, Ida N. Shadduck, section 21, township 121, range 27. Hazel Hurst Stock Farm, C. E. La Plant, sections 22 and 23, township 121, range 23. Meadow Land Stock Farm, Julius Johnson, section 2, township 118, range 28. Lake Side Farm, August Anderson, sections 33 and 37, township 120, range 27. Cedar Grove Farm, Gustaf Smedberg, section 36, township 118, range 27. Summitteroft, Gustaf Olton, section 19, township 121, range 25. Hillerest Farm, John Larson, section 33, township 120, range 25. North Star Farm, J. W. Beckman, section 3, township 118, range 28. Maple Grove Stock Farm, William J. Graham, section 33, township 118, range 27. Pleasant View, J. V. Beers, sections 5 and 8, township 121, range 25. Brookside Farm, Phineas E. Eddy, section 17, township 118, range 27. East Side Farm, John A. Hoaglund, section 15, township 118, range 28. High View, Anton P. Moody, section 15, township 118, range 28. Shore Acres, Edson S and Louise M. Gaylord, section 21 and 28, township 121, range 28. The Linden Grove Farm, John R. Streich, section 1, township 118, range 27. Pinewood, N. O. Monson, section 10, township 118, range 28. Plain View Farm, Andrew Carlson, section 33, township 118, range 25. Millstone Lake Farm, Cornelius Schermer, section 18, township 121, range 26. Maple Hill Stock Farm, Paul Kritzeck, section 29, township 118, range 27. Lakeside Stock Farm, M. M. Schlager, section 32, township 118, range 27. Groveland Farm, S. B. Berg, section 24, township 122, range 26.

### GOVERNMENT REPORT.

The following report of Wright county agriculture, issued in connection with the thirteenth census of the United States, speaks for itself in regard to the present day agricultural conditions in the county.

Population, 28,082 (in 1900, 29,157).

Number of all farms, 3,814 (in 1900, 3,992).

Color and nativity of all farmers. Native whites, 1,985; foreign born whites, 1,829.

Number of farms classified by size: Under three acres, 4; from three to nine acres, 119; from ten to nineteen acres, 120; from twenty to forty-nine acres, 460; from fifty to ninety-nine acres, 1,376; from 100 to 174 acres, 1,295; from 175 to 259 acres, 328; from 260 to 499 acres, 109; 500 to 999 acres, 3.

**Land and Farm Areas.** Approximate land area, 442,240 acres. Land in farms, 399,328. (Land in farms in 1900, 383,966 acres). Improved land in farms, 237,792 acres. Improved land in farms in 1900, 215,436 acres. Woodland in farms, 90,687 acres. Other unimproved land in farms, 70,849 acres. Per cent of the whole county in farms, 90.3 per cent. Per cent of farm land improved, 59.5 per cent. Average acres to each farm, 104.7 acres. Average improved acres to each farm, 62.3 acres.

**Value of Farm Property.** All farm property, \$27,922,225. (In 1900 the value was \$14,108,289). The percentage of increase in farm value in ten years was 97.9 per cent. Value of land alone, \$17,927,368. (The value of land alone in 1900 was \$9,493,540). Value of buildings alone, \$5,730,905. (\$2,414,470 in 1900.) Value of implements and machinery, \$994,202. (\$553,970 in 1909.) Value of domestic animals, poultry and bees, \$3,269,750. (\$1,646,309 in 1900.) Per cent of value of all property in land, 64.2 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in buildings, 20.5 per cent. Per cent of value of all property in implements and machinery, 3.6 per cent. Per cent of value in domestic animals, poultry and bees, 11.7 per cent.

**Average values.** Average value of all property per farm, \$7,321. Average value of land and buildings per farm, \$6,203. Average value of land per acre, \$44.89. (\$24.72 in 1900.)

**Domestic Animals on Farms and Ranges.** Farmers reporting domestic animals, 3,748. Value of domestic animals, \$3,145,098.

**Cattle.** Total number, 49,876. Dairy cows, 28,071. Other cows, 2,208. Calves, 7,391. Yearling heifers, 6,839. Yearling steers and bulls, 2,304. Other steers and bulls, 2,063. Total value, \$1,153,173.

**Horses.** Total number, 13,386. Mature horses, 12,197. Yearling colts, 1,077. Spring colts, 112. Total value, \$1,642,272.

**Mules.** Total number, 43. Mature mules, 39. Yearling colts, 3. Spring colts, 1. Total value, \$4,215.

**Asses and Burros.** Total number, 1. Total value, \$25.

**Swine.** Total number, 49,109. Mature hogs, 19,060. Spring pigs, 21,049. Value, \$326,646.

**Sheep.** Total number 4,909. Rams, ewes, wethers, 3,502. Spring lambs, 1,407. Value, \$18,709.

**Goats.** Number, 17. Value, \$58.

**Poultry and Bees.** Poultry of all kinds, 251,171. Value, \$119,382. Number of colonies of bees, 1,837. Value, \$5,270.

Farms operated by owners, 3,252. (3,447 in 1900.) Per cent of all farms in the county operated by owners, 85.3 per cent. (86.3 per cent in 1900.)

Land in farms operated by owners, 333,230 acres. Improved land in farms operated by owners, 198,450. Value of lands and buildings in farms operated by owners, \$19,889,112.



**Degree of Ownership.** Number of farms operated by owners, consisting of owned lands only, 2,675. Number of farms operated by owners which also include with the owned land, some hired land, 577. Of the men in the county owning and operating their own farms, 1,585 are native born Americans and 1,667 are foreign born.

**Farms Operated by Tenants.** Number of farms operated by tenants, 551. (534 in 1900.) Of all the farms in the county, 14.4 per cent are operated by tenants. (13.4 in 1900.)

**Land in Rented Farms, 64,279 Acres.** Improved land in rented farms, 37,986 acres. Value of land and buildings in rented farms, \$3,558,161.

**Form of Tenancy.** Share tenants, 237. Share-cash tenants, 55. Cash tenants, 248. Tenure not specified, 11. Of the people renting farms in the county 391 are native born Americans, and 160 are foreign born.

**Farms Operated by Managers.** Number of farms operated by managers, 11. (11 in 1900.) Land in farms operated by managers, 1,819 acres. Improved lands in farms operated by managers, 1,356. Value of land and buildings in farms operated by managers, \$211,000.

**Mortgage Debt Report of Farms Operated by Their Owners.** Number free from mortgage debt, 1,757. Number with mortgage debt, 1,478. Number on which no mortgage report was made, 17. Mortgage debt report of farms consisting of owned land only. Number reporting debt and amount, 1,122. Value of their land and buildings, \$6,520,787. Amount of mortgage debt, \$1,823,827. Per cent of value of land and buildings mortgaged, 28 per cent.

**Farm Expenses.** For labor. Number of farms from which reports were obtained, 1,616. Cash expended for labor on these farms, \$159,418. Rent and board furnished for labor, \$61,654.

**For Feed.** Number of farms reported on this question, 1,175. Amount expended, \$59,464.

**Principal Crops.** Corn, 37,207 acres; bushels, 1,509,337. Common winter wheat, 1,666 acres; bushels, 36,051. Common spring wheat, 61,754 acres, bushels, 1,348,816. Durum or macaroni wheat, 28 acres, bushels, 574. Barley, 11,258 acres; bushels, 335,546. Rye, 4,438 acres, bushels, 83,997. Flaxseed, 90 acres, bushels, 1,146. Timothy seed, 114 acres, bushels, 620. Potatoes, 3,595 acres, bushels, 476,389. Oats, 19,016 acres, bushels, 759,700.

**Hay and Forage.** Total, 51,639 acres, tons, 107,533. Timothy alone, 6,983 acres, tons, 14,788. Timothy and clover mixed, 13,360 acres, tons, 30,146. Other tame or cultivated grass exclusive of clover alone and alfalfa, 2,363 acres, tons, 5,018. Wild or prairie grass, 26,710 acres, tons, 52,017. All other hay and forage, 2,223 acres, tons, 5,564.

**ASSESSMENT ROLLS.**

The assessment rolls of Wright county for 1914 are most interesting as they tell in unadorned figures the agricultural conditions that exist in Wright county at the present time.

**HORSES, MULES AND ASSES.**

Under one year old, 877; average value, \$16.00; total value, \$14,036; one year old and under two years, 1,206; average value, \$24.23; total value, \$29,223; two years old and under three years, 1,250; average value, \$33.63; total value, \$42,041; three years old and over, 12,201; average value, \$35.80; total value, \$436,820; stallions, fine bred mares and race horses, 59; average value, \$140.66, total value, \$8,299.

**Cattle.** Under one year old, 9,670; average value, \$3.06; total value, \$29,612; one year old and under two years, 8,225; average value, \$5.14; total value, \$42,331; two years old and under three years, 5,402; average value, \$9.22; total value, \$49,797; cows, 23,823, average value, \$14.23; total value, \$339,090; bulls, 874, average value, \$12.47; total value, \$10,898; all other cattle three years old and over, 62; average value, \$18.40; total value, \$1,141.

**Sheep,** 2,996, average value \$1.51, total value \$4,529.

**Swine,** 25,522, average value \$3.34, total value \$85,212.

**Poultry,** total value \$27,081.

**Dogs,** 2,692, average value \$1.93, total value \$5,199.

**Equipment and Furniture.** The value of farm implements and machinery is \$128,627. The highest value is in Franklin township, \$10,165.

The total assessed valuation of household furniture and utensils and wearing apparel of members of the family is \$210,498. The highest village is Buffalo at \$11,101. The lowest is Hanover at \$1,021. The highest township is Franklin at \$10,697. The lowest is Southside at \$4,601.

The total valuation of rugs and carpets is \$5,442, and of books, pictures, bric-a-brac and works of art \$2,358.

There are 3,602 sewing machines assessed at \$11,153. The largest number in a village is in Buffalo where there are 180. The smallest number, 18, is in Hanover. The largest number in a township is in Franklin where there are 214. The smallest number, 55, is in French Lake. There are 4,150 watches and clocks assessed and the assessed valuation of jewelry, diamonds, gold and silver plate and plated ware is \$1,667.

The county has 1,071 pianos. Buffalo leads among the villages with 98, while in Rockford village there are 7. Among the townships Middleville leads with 44. The smallest number, 15, is in Clearwater township. The total valuation of other musical instruments is \$3,676.

There are 7,887 wagons, carriages and sleighs, valued at \$60,-958. The highest number is in Monticello township where there are 726. The highest valuation is in Buffalo township where it is \$3,144. The highest average valuation, \$11.79, is in Howard Lake. The harnesses and saddles in the county are assessed at \$27,050.

No less than 620 automobiles are found in the county. The average valuation is \$138.45 and the total value is \$85,847. One hundred and four motorcycles and bicycles have an average valuation of \$12.42 and a total valuation of \$1,292.

Other assessments in the county are: Steam and motor boats, sailing vessels, barges and all other water craft, \$1,461. Grain, grass seed and flaxseed in the hands of producers, \$15,523. All other agricultural products in the hands of producers, \$1,380. Threshing machines and outfits used therewith exclusive of engines, \$9,100. Steam engines, boilers, gasoline engines, dynamos and electric motors, \$241.54. Locomotives, steam shovels and other machinery used in mining, \$134. Manufacturers' tools, implements and machinery not assessed as real estate, \$18,399. Wheat flour, barley, malt, flaxseed, linseed oil and all other grain and grain products in hands of manufacturers, \$2,046. Lumber, lath and shingles, \$39,263. Logs, poles, posts and railroad ties, \$208. Brick, cement, lime, cement blocks and quarried stone in the hands of dealers or manufacturers, \$541. All other manufacturers' materials and manufactured articles not listed, in the hands of manufacturers, \$3,204. Goods and merchandise of wholesale merchants and jobbers, \$2,756. Goods and merchandise of retail merchants, \$222,265. Typewriters, adding machines, cash registers and computing scales, \$4,171. Safes, \$2,030. Store furniture and fixtures, \$9,676. Office furniture, including instruments, equipment and libraries of professional men, \$5,362. Fire arms of all kinds, \$1,330. Presses, typesetting machines, type cases and furniture, equipments, fixtures and stock on hand of newspaper and printing offices, \$2,608. Machinery, furniture equipment and stock of creameries and cheese factories, \$3,540. Machinery, furniture and equipment of laundries, \$5. Stock, furniture, fixtures and equipment of saloons, sample rooms and bar rooms, \$7,431. Stock, furniture, fixtures and equipment of restaurants, eating houses and cafes, \$2,770. Stock, furniture, fixtures, equipment, tables and alleys of billard and pool rooms and bowling alleys, \$1,544. Furniture, tools and equipment of barber shops, \$604. All tools, implements and machinery not listed in the foregoing items, \$16,292.

#### **OTHER PROPERTY.**

Elevators, warehouses and other improvements on railway lands, \$21,560. Structures on lands entered under the United States land laws and on lands leased from the state, \$333. Shares

of bank stock, \$170,572. Shares of stock in all corporations whose property is not assessed or taxed in this state, \$2,564. All other personal property not included in the foregoing items required by law to be listed, \$2,433.

**Totals.** Total assessed value of personal property as equalized by county board, \$2,313,186. Total assessed value of personal property as returned by assessors, \$2,303,663. Total true and full value of all personal property as returned by county board, \$7,129,189.

### TOWNSHIPS.

**Albion.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old 40, one year old and under two years 58, two years old and under three years 75, three years old and over 679. Cattle. Under one year 337, one year old and under two years 379, two years old and under three years 296, cows 1,370, bulls 36, all other cattle three years old and over 2. Sheep 19. Swine 916. Value of poultry \$1,164. Dogs 157.

Automobiles 15, motorcycles and bicycles, 7.

**Buffalo.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 38; one year old and under two years, 47; two years old and under three years, 58; three years old and over, 577. Cattle, under one year, 482; one year and under two years, 422; two years and under three years, 297; cows, 1,190; bulls, 56; all other cattle three years old and over, 2. Sheep, 290. Swine, 964. Value of poultry, \$1,297. Number of dogs, 141.

Automobiles, 12; motorcycles and bicycles, 1.

**Chatham.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 15; one year old and under two years, 23; two years old and under three years, 26; three years old and over, 283. Cattle, under one year, 332; one year and under two years, 210; two years and under three years, 144; cows, 582; bulls, 29; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 78. Swine, 1,132. Value of poultry, \$413. Number of dogs, 75.

Automobiles, 8; motorcycles and bicycles, 1.

**Clearwater.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 18; one year old and under two years, 24; two years old and under three years, 16; three years old and over, 346. Cattle, under one year, 257; one year and under two years, 269; two years and under three years, 146; cows, 558; bulls, 10; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 101. Swine, 568. Value of poultry, \$681. Number of dogs, 56.

Automobiles, 5; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

**Cokato.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 38; one year old and under two years, 45; two years old and under three years, 50; three years old and over, 654. Cattle, under one year, 775; one year and under two years, 453; two years and



under three years, 293; cows, 1,318; bulls, 69; all other cattle three years old and over, 2. Sheep, 135. Swine, 746. Value of poultry, \$1,218. Number of dogs, 135.

Automobiles, 25; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Corinna.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 16; one year old and under two years, 39; two years old and under three years, 43; three years old and over, 447. Cattle, under one year, 416; one year and under two years, 375; two years and under three years, 285; cows, 692; bulls, 33; all other cattle three years old and over, 13. Sheep, 215. Swine, 834. Value of poultry, \$1,124. Number of dogs, 104.

Automobiles, 4; motorcycles and bicycles, 6.

**Frankfort.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 38; one year old and under two years, 69; two years old and under three years, 67; three years old and over, 521. Cattle, under one year, 483; one year and under two years, 366; two years and under three years, 244; cows, 1,070; bulls, 52; all other cattle three years old and over, 4. Sheep, 123. Swine, 1,440. Value of poultry, \$1,400. Number of dogs, 124.

Automobiles, 11; motorcycles and bicycles, 4.

**Franklin.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 88; one year old and under two years, 84; two years old and under three years, 93; three years old and over, 724. Cattle, under one year, 633; one year and under two years, 525; two years and under three years, 327; cows, 1,879; bulls, 40; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 138. Swine, 1,783. Value of poultry, \$1,689. Number of dogs, 195.

Automobiles, 32; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

**French Lake.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 31; one year old and under two years, 50; two years old and under three years, 43; three years old and over, 525. Cattle, under one year, 562; one year and under two years, 451; two years and under three years, 255; cows, 1,245; bulls, 35; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 65. Swine, 552. Value of poultry, \$1,349. Number of dogs, 110.

Automobiles, 19; motorcycles and bicycles, 11.

**Maple Lake.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 29; one year old and under two years, 39; two years old and under three years, 24; three years old and over, 420. Cattle, under one year, 313; one year and under two years, 387; two years and under three years, 188; cows, 969; bulls, 26; all other cattle three years and over, 3. Sheep, 150. Swine, 696. Value of poultry, \$551. Number of dogs, 106.

Automobiles, 3; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Marysville.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 39; one year and under two years, 57; two years old and under three years, 77; three years old and over, 533. Cattle, under one year,

285; one year and under two years, 555; two years and under three years, 386; cows, 1,381; bulls, 52; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 113. Swine, 883. Value of poultry, \$998. Number of dogs, 133.

Automobiles, 6; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Middleville.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 49; one year old and under two years, 75; two years old and under three years, 69; three years old and over, 758. Cattle, under one year, 610; one year and under two years, 417; two years and under three years, 240; cows, 1,411; bulls, 49; all other cattle three years old and over, 5. Sheep, 77. Swine, 1,493. Value of poultry, \$1,807. Number of dogs, 183.

Automobiles, 5; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Monticello.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 68; one year old and under two years, 95; two years old and under three years, 79; three years old and over, 723. Cattle, under one year, 791; one year and under two years, 476; two years and under three years, 378; cows, 964; bulls, 50; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 304. Swine, 3,254. Value of poultry, \$1,866. Number of dogs, 74.

Automobiles, 11; motorcycles and bicycles, 16.

**Otsego.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 49; one year old and under two years, 65; two years old and under three years, 69; three years old and over, 527. Cattle, under one year, 483; one year and under two years, 365; two years and under three years, 236; cows, 988; bulls, 46; all other cattle three years old and over, 2. Sheep, 169. Swine, 777. Value of poultry, \$1,104. Number of dogs, 87.

Automobiles, 10; motorcycles and bicycles, 5.

**Rockford.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 55; one year old and under two years, 76; two years old and under three years, 59; three years old and over, 647. Cattle, under one year, 648; one year and under two years, 535; two years and under three years, 333; cows, 1,536; bulls, 80; all other cattle three years old and over, 7. Sheep, 88. Swine, 4,104. Value of poultry, \$1,091. Number of dogs, 164.

Automobiles, 15; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

**Silver Creek.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 29; one year old and under two years, 39; two years old and under three years, 43; three years old and over, 570. Cattle, under one year, 266; one year and under two years, 359; two years and under three years, 143; cows, 1,313; bulls, 60; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 78. Swine, 661. Value of poultry, \$1,086. Number of dogs, 130.

Automobiles, 15; motorcycles and bicycles, 4.

**Southside.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 33; one year old and under two years, 36; two years old and

under three years, 51; three years old and over, 324. Cattle, under one year, 353; one year and under two years, 227; two years and under three years, 199; cows, 485; bulls, 15; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 535. Swine, 609. Value of poultry, \$643. Number of dogs, 87.

Automobiles, 6; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Stockholm.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 52; one year old and under two years, 72; two years old and under three years, 68; three years old and over, 660. Cattle, under one year, 518; one year and under two years, 377; two years and under three years, 337; cows, 1,095; bulls, 24; all other cattle three years old and over, 4. Sheep, 94; swine, 1,361. Value of poultry, \$1,614. Number of dogs, \$130.

Automobiles, 16; motorcycles and bicycles, 3.

**Victor.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 46; one year old and under two years, 88; two years old and under three years, 111; three years old and over, 609. Cattle, under one year, 356; one year and under two years, 404; two years and under three years, 220; cows, 1,328; bulls, 31; all other cattle three years old and over, 8. Sheep, 121. Swine, 767. Value of poultry, \$2,063. Number of dogs, 156.

Automobiles, 17; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Woodland.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 59; one year old and under two years, 72; two years old and under three years, 73; three years old and over, 608. Cattle, under one year, 564; one year and under two years, 422; two years and under three years, 310; cows, 1,331; bulls, 64; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 44. Swine, 886. Value of poultry, \$1,184. Number of dogs, 102.

Automobiles, 12; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

### VILLAGES.

**Annandale.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 7; two years old and under three years, 4; three years old and over, 89. Cattle, under one year, 15; one year and under two years, 21; two years and under three years, 43; cows, 53; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 46. Value of poultry, \$216. Number of dogs, 17.

Automobiles, 41; motorcycles and bicycles, 7.

**Buffalo.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 5; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 2; three years old and over, 109. Cattle, under one year, 36; one year and under two years, 8; two years and under three years, 5; cows, 94; bulls, 1; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 23. Value of poultry, \$309. Number of dogs, 1.

Automobiles, 44; motoreycles and bicycles, 21.

**Clearwater.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 0; one year old and under two years, 1; two years old and under three years, 1; three years old and over, 35. Cattle, under one year, 1; one year and under two years, 2; two years and under three years, 0; cows, 19; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 23. Value of poultry, \$61. Number of dogs, 12.

Automobiles, 16; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

**Cokato.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 6; one year old and under two years, 3; two years old and under three years, 4; three years old and over, 90. Cattle, under one year, 10; one year and under two years, 10; two years and under three years, 11; cows, 89; bulls, 1; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 1. Swine, 28. Value of poultry, \$432. Number of dogs, 27.

Automobiles, 40; motoreycles and bicycles, 0.

**Delano.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 5; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 4; three years old and over, 110. Cattle, under one year, 1; one year and under two years, 1; two years and under three years, 3; cows, 74; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 10. Sheep, 0. Swine, 32. Value of poultry, \$200. Number of dogs, 21.

Automobiles, 28; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

**Hanover.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 3; two years old and under three years, 3; three years old and over, 56. Cattle, under one year, 23; one year and under two years, 27; two years and under three years, 31; cows, 118; bulls, 3; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 5. Swine, 273. Value of poultry, \$200. Number of dogs, 14.

Automobiles, 6; motoreycles and bicycles, 0.

**Howard Lake.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 1; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 4; three years old and over, 73. Cattle, under one year, 2; one year and under two years, 5; two years and under three years, 2; cows, 43; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 17. Value of poultry, \$162. Number of dogs, 16.

Automobiles, 21; motoreycles and bicycles, 1.

**Maple Lake.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 4; one year old and under two years, 6; two years old and under three years, 5; three years old and over, 71. Cattle, under one year, 10; one year and under two years, 20; two years and under three years, 8; cows, 90; bulls, 1; all other cattle three years old



and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 38. Value of poultry, \$60. Number of dogs, 8.

Automobiles, 20; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

**Monticello.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 2; three years old and over, 83. Cattle, under one year, 3; one year and under two years, 4; two years and under three years, 1; cows, 34; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 25. Value of poultry, \$151. Number of dogs, 18.

Automobiles, 50; motorcycles and bicycles, 2.

**Montrose.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 1; one year old and under two years, 4; two years old and under three years, 0; three years old and over, 44. Cattle, under one year, 11; one year and under two years, 8; two years and under three years, 2; cows, 87; bulls, 1; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 15. Swine, 130. Value of poultry, \$177. Number of dogs, 26.

Automobiles, 17; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Rockford.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 0; one year old and under two years, 1; two years old and under three years, 2; three years old and over, 36. Cattle, under one year, 3; one year and under two years, 5; two years and under three years, 0; cows, 32; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 19. Value of poultry, \$97. Number of dogs, 6.

Automobiles, 16; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**St. Michael.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 6; one year old and under two years, 7; two years old and under three years, 9; three years old and over, 79. Cattle, under one year, 37; one year and under two years, 31; two years and under three years, 13; cows, 162; bulls, 6; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 252. Value of poultry, \$225. Number of dogs, 23.

Automobiles, 11; motorcycles and bicycles, 1.

**St. Michael Station.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 7; two years old and under three years, 7; three years old and over, 77. Cattle, under one year, 38; one year and under two years, 41; two years and under three years, 15; cows, 121; bulls, 4; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 135. Value of poultry, \$217. Number of dogs, 17.

Automobiles, 6; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**South Haven.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 3; one year old and under two years, 2; two years old and under three years, 6; three years old and over, 69. Cattle, under one year, 9; one year and under two years, 60; two years and under

three years, 6; cows, 77; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 38. Swine, 41. Value of poultry, \$105. Number of dogs, 14.

Automobiles, 8; motorcycles and bicycles, 0.

**Waverly.** Horses, mules and asses. Under one year old, 4; one year old and under two years, 4; two years old and under three years, 3; three years old and over, 45. Cattle, under one year, 7; one year and under two years, 8; two years and under three years, 5; cows, 25; bulls, 0; all other cattle three years old and over, 0. Sheep, 0. Swine, 14. Value of poultry, \$127. Number of dogs, 23.

Automobiles, 22; motorcycles and bicycles, 3.

There are 59 stallions, fine bred mares and race horses in the county. They are distributed as follows: Buffalo, 5; Clearwater, 2; Cokato, 3; Frankfort, 1; Franklin, 1; French Lake, 1; Maple Lake, 3; Marysville, 1; Middleville, 1; Monticello, 23; Otsego, 5; Rockford, 1; Southside, 2; Woodland, 3; Annandale Village, 1; Delano Village, 2; Maple Lake Village, 3; Waverly Village, 1.

## CHAPTER XVI.

### BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW.

**Facts in the Early Career and Later Success of People Who Have Helped to Make Wright County—Founders and Patriots—Names Which Will Live Long in the Memories of Residents of This Vicinity—Stories of Well-Known Families Who have Led in Public Life.**

**Adam A. Jewett**, one of the prominent and energetic business men of Annandale, was born in Eau Claire, Wis., January 19, 1863, son of Aaron H. and Jane E. (Emerson) Jewett. Aaron H. Jewett came to Wright county in 1862 and homesteaded a tract of land in section 8, Marysville township. A year later he was joined by the family. Adam A. was reared on this place. As he grew up he helped with the farm work and earned spending money by digging ginseng, and cutting hoop poles, cord wood and ties. He received a good common school education, and in 1882 became a rural school teacher. In this profession he continued for six years. In 1888 he went into the grain business at Maple Lake, and so continued until 1903. From 1894 to 1903 he did the village good service as postmaster. He went to Pasadena, California, in 1903 for the benefit of his wife's health. In 1905 he entered into the grain business in Barlow, North Dakota, and there remained until 1910. In that year he came to Annandale and became manager for the Osborne McMillan Elevator Company. Aside from the splendid work he

does in this line, he is extensively engaged in the implement business. In public affairs, Mr. Jewett has been especially active. At different times he has held all the village offices of Maple Lake, and for twelve years was on the school board there. For the past three years he has been village recorder of Annandale. For ten years he was township member of the Republican Central Committee. He belongs to Buffalo Lodge, No. 135, A. F. & A. M., and Barlow (North Dakota) Lodge, No. 106, I. O. O. F. For twenty-five years he has been a member of Maple Lake Lodge, No. 212, A. O. U. W., and has occupied all the offices in that lodge. Mr. Jewett was married in 1885 to Gertrude E. Past, daughter of John and Margaret Past. Mr. and Mrs. Jewett have seven children: Harry H., Calvin C. and Eva C., who live at home, and four who are dead.

**Edward J. Brabec**, successful builder and contractor of Annandale, was born on section 20, Woodland township, Wright county, July 17, 1877, son of Joseph and Anna (Pesina) Brabec. He attended the district schools and was reared to farm pursuits. In 1901 he went to Renville, this state, and learned the carpenter trade from H. H. Wilkins, architect and builder. In 1904 he came to Annandale, and engaged in his present business as a builder and contractor. He is an expert in his line, he takes a deep interest in his work, and many of the best of the modern houses in this vicinity stand as monuments to his honor, ability and mastery of his trade. He is a designer as well as builder, and his ideas are embodied in such structures as the residences of A. A. Zech, John Herzberg, Octavius Longworth and many others. Mr. Brabec was married in 1903 to Edith Klucas, daughter of Fred Klucas, a pioneer of Waverly, in this county. In the Brabec family there are two children: Myrtle, born in 1904, and Luella, born in 1911. The family attend the Lutheran Church. Mr. Brabec is a member of the Commercial Club. Aside from his activities as a designer and contractor he has quite an extensive cabinet and planing mill, fully equipped with the latest machinery, where he is prepared to turn out anything in his line. He erected this mill himself and it is adequate in every particular.

**George Walters**, a veteran of the Civil war, and early settler of French Lake township, was born in Kent, England, in 1840, son of Mathew Walters, who brought his family to America about 1846 and settled on a small farm near Cleveland, Ohio. At the age of fifteen, George Walters started out for himself. The outbreak of the Civil war found him still in Ohio. He enlisted September 5, 1861, in Battery B., First Ohio Light Artillery, under Captain W. E. Stannard and Colonel James Barrett. The regiment was assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps. Among the battles in which Mr. Walters participated may be mentioned:

Wild Cat Mountain, Ky.; Mills Springs, Ky.; Perryville, Ky.; Laverque, Tenn.; Stone River, Tenn.; Chickamauga, Tenn.; Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. He was discharged January 3, 1864, reenlisted January 4, 1864, and received his final discharge July 22, 1865. After the war he returned home, and then spent a year as a fur trapper near Manistee, Mich. From there he came to Minneapolis. It was in 1867 that he came to the northern part of French Lake township and purchased forty acres of land. He farmed there about seven years, then he moved to Corinna township, bought forty acres and there farmed about twenty years. Then he came to Annandale, where he has since lived. Mr. Walters is a member of Buzzell Post, No. 24, G. A. R., at Annandale. Mr. Walters was married in January, 1871, to Julia Whitlock, daughter of Ervin and Mary (Abney) Whitlock, who were married April 30, 1849. Mr. and Mrs. Walters have had seven children: Lottie, now Mrs. J. F. Gorman, of Maple Lake; James, of Annandale; Nettie, wife of Tad Heaton, of Annandale; Blanche, wife of Hugo Ernest, of Paynesville; Gertrude, wife of R. S. Webber, of Paynesville; and two that died in infancy. Mrs. Walters is a member of the Advent Church. Ervin Whitlock, the early settler, came to Minnesota in 1866. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having served as fifer in Company I, 84th Illinois Volunteer Infantry. He is now living at Annandale, at the advanced age of 94 years.

**Phineas S. Rudolph**, early settler and veteran of the Civil war, was born in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, December 1, 1839, son of Abraham and Catharine (Rhoades) Rudolph. Abraham Rudolph was a farmer and sawmill operator. In 1876 he came to Wright county and purchased 160 acres of wild land in section 14, South Side township. Phineas was reared on the home farm in Pennsylvania. In 1861 he enlisted in Company A, 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, and served within forty-one days of four years. He went through the entire Wilderness campaign, and participated in the siege of Yorktown and the battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court House, North Anne, Cold Harbor, Deep Bottom, and the nine months' siege of Petersburg, and was present at the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. After being mustered out at Braddocks, Pa., in July, 1865, he returned to Jefferson county, Pennsylvania, and engaged in farming on a seventy-acre farm which he had previously purchased. He was married December 27, 1865, to Letitia Groves, daughter of Daniel and Jennie (Cannon) Groves, farmers of that county. Mrs. Letitia (Groves) Rudolph died October 13, 1881. February 13, 1883, Mr. Rudolph married Mrs. Mary E. Patterson, daughter of Solomon and Leah (Butler) Nolf, farmers of Armstrong county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Rudolph remained on the farm in Pennsylvania until 1888. In that year he came to



Wright county and settled on eighty acres in sections 13 and 14, South Side township. He developed this place and continued to reside there until 1907, when he bought the slightly village residence in Annandale where he now resides. He also has forty acres of land in Stearns county. He has been justice of the peace several terms, town clerk one year and school director ten years. He is a charter member and Past Master of Fair Haven Lodge, No. 182, A. F. & A. M., of Annandale, which he helped to organize when it was started at Fair Haven and before its removal to Annandale. He is also a past commander of Buzzell Post, No. 24, G. A. R. By his first wife, Mr. Rudolph had eight children: William H. lives in La Crosse, Wash.; Annie M. is the wife of I. H. Winget, of California; Jennie K. is now Mrs. Newton Larson, of Paris, Mont.; John C. lives at White Salmon, Wash.; Amy is the wife of Fay Pierce, of La Crosse, Wash. By his second wife Mr. Rudolph had four children: Charles E., a dentist in Minneapolis; Effie, a nurse in Merrill, Wis.; Larue, now Mrs. C. A. Larson, of Harlow, N. D.; and Cecil K., who is operating the home farm in South Side township.

**Albert A. Thayer**, genial proprietor of the Annandale Hotel, was born in Adrian, Mich., December 28, 1848, son of David B. and Catharine (Warren) Thayer. David B. Thayer was born at Malden Bridge, N. Y., being taken to Adrian, Mich., at the age of two years. There he attended school and grew to manhood. In 1854 he came to Hennepin county, this state, located in Brooklyn township, near Osseo, and died in 1874. Albert A. Thayer was brought to Hennepin county at the age of five years, attended the district schools, and was reared to farm pursuits. As a boy he experienced all the rigors of pioneer life. During the Indian fright he kept the horse harnessed day and night in order that the family might flee at the first alarm. In 1864, then only sixteen years of age, he enlisted as a musician in the Seventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and saw southern service for seven months. He was mustered out at Fort Snelling August 16, 1865. After his father's death he operated the home farm until 1878. Then he went to Fair Haven, in Stearns county, and took the contract for the star mail route between Fair Haven and St. Cloud, a distance of twenty miles. He operated a daily stage over this route for ten years. At the same time he conducted the Star Hotel at Fair Haven. In 1890 he moved to Annandale. For four years he had charge of a livery, and in 1894 he went into the hotel business. In 1895 the hotel burned, and he at once erected the Annandale Hotel, which he still owns and manages. He has a good trade, conducts an excellent place, and is justly popular, both with the traveling public and with the people of the county. Mr. Thayer is quartermaster of Buzzell Post, No. 24, G. A. R., at Annandale. Albert A. Thayer was married in 1869

to Mary Colbern, of Osseo, Minn. She died in 1875, leaving two children: William, now at McNaughton, Wis., and Le Roy, now at Clarissa, Minn. In 1880 Mr. Thayer married Carrie Hill, daughter of Horace and Eliza Hill. Horace Hill was a pioneer and came to Forest City, Meeker county, in an early day. In 1862 the Hill family moved to Monticello to take refuge from the Indians, who were killing settlers to the westward. Mr. and Mrs. Thayer have five children: Elsie May is at home; Effie is the wife of J. E. Walters, of Annandale; Bert H. is cashier of the State Bank of Annandale; Martha is in the postoffice at Belgrade, Minn.; Agnes is a student at the State Normal school at St. Cloud.

**Jacob Lambert**, pioneer and veteran of the Civil war, was born in Switzerland, November 6, 1844, son of Sulpes and Madeline Lambert. Jacob Lambert came to America in 1851, and spent his boyhood in New York state. He was there when the Civil war broke out, and loyal to his adopted country, he enlisted in the Third Battery, New York Light Artillery, serving from his muster in at Albany, in 1862, until his discharge in August of the same year. He participated in the battles of Beaufort and Marlsborough, and in minor skirmishes. After his discharge he moved to Fond du Lac, Wis., and lived there one year. Then he moved to Green Bay, in the same state. It was in 1866 that he came to Minnesota, and homesteaded seventy-five acres of land in section 8, Albion township. With him came his sister, now Mrs. Nancy Dechaney, of Annandale, who has reached the age of 81 years. When Mr. Lambert first took his land it was covered with woods. He moved into a log cabin and started to establish for themselves a home in the wilderness. As time passed, their farm contained 131 acres and became one of the best in the neighborhood. The place is fully developed in every respect, the home is modern and the barns are commodious, while the equipment is of the best. Mr. Lambert has taken an interest in education, and served for some time as treasurer of his school district in Albion township. He was also roadoverseer for a considerable period. In 1898 he retired and moved to Annandale and built a good home. He is a member of the G. A. R., and attends the Catholic church. Mr. Lambert was married in September, 1876, to Eugenia Logeais, daughter of Eugene Logeais, of Albion township. She died in 1889, leaving one son, Eugene, who lives on the home farm in Albion. Like his father before him, he is an energetic, capable man, and is well liked throughout the community. He married Stella O'Brien. They have four children: Aaron, Sidney, Darius and Eugene H. In August, 1898, Jacob Lambert married Mrs. Mary Strom, born in Ramsey county, September 12, 1858, daughter of Joseph Pepin and Matilda Morrisette. Her paternal grandfather, Pepin, home-

steaded the land where a part of St. Paul now stands, and her father, Joseph Pepin, was one of the first white children born in Fort Snelling.

**Harry Allen**, soldier, traveler and guide, is one of the notable figures in Annandale life. He has done service on the bloody battlefields of two continents, and has had experiences such as seldom fall to the lot of man. He was born in Onondaga, N. Y., January 10, 1840, son of John and Sarah Allen. John Allen was a fisherman on the Great Lakes, and from the time he was able to handle a net until he was sixteen years old, Harry Allen worked with him. Then he started out for himself as a sailor on the Great Lakes. He was thus engaged when the Civil war broke out. He first enlisted in the First Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry, and when his term there had expired, in the Seventeenth Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry. Among the engagements in which he participated may be mentioned the battles of Corinth, Champion Hills, Vicksburg, Trinity, Big Shanty, Kenesaw Mountain, Atlanta (July 21, 24 and 28), Jonesboro, Lovejoy Station, Millidgeville, Savannah, Columbia, Charleston, Kingston, Bentonville and Raleigh. He was wounded in the left leg at the Round-Away Bayou, Louisiana; and at Atlanta he was wounded in the left leg and the left arm, and lost his left eye. In 1865 he again became a sailor on the Great Lakes. This occupation he followed until 1880, when he opened a repair shop in Chicago. It was in 1882 that he went to Egypt and enlisted in the English army for seven months under "Chinese" Gordon. The fact that he had been sent with the sick to Cairo saved him from being destroyed with his company at the battle of Khartoum. After his term of enlistment expired he again returned to Chicago and conducted a repair shop. In 1887 he came to St. Paul and found employment in the lumber woods in the northern part of the state. His residence in Wright county dates from 1896, since which time he has been a guide and a keeper of a resort. Mr. Allen was married in 1891 to Viola Lee, daughter of William and Betsy Lee, of Cokato, this county. Mrs. Allen died in 1902, leaving three children: Caroline, Benjamin and Harry.

**Martin Koepke**, now deceased, was for many years one of the respected and substantial citizens of Albion township. He was born in Germany, November 13, 1858, and was there reared and educated. In 1878 he set out for America to seek his fortune in the new country. By working hard and saving his money he was enabled in 1880 to purchase eighty acres in section 34, Albion township. He cleared all the land, built a log house 16 by 24, with a shingled roof and board floor, and became in time a successful farmer. He died March 27, 1897, and his death was sincerely mourned. Mr. Koepke was married October 27, 1881, to Caroline Schultz, who was born in Germany April







MR. AND MRS. PATRICK BUTLER

18, 1865, and came to America with Michael Ferchmien, a family friend. Mr. and Mrs. Koepke had eight children. Hulda, the oldest, died in infancy. Rudolph was born February 26, 1887. Reinhold was born January 28, 1889. Hedwig was born in August, 1893; Olga died in 1903; Martin was born July 27, 1897; Robert and Martha died in infancy. Rudolph and Reinhold are both successful farmers of this township. Hedwig was married January 1, 1911, to William Uecker, and they have two children; Edwin and William. Mrs. Caroline (Schultz) Koepke was married in October, 1899, to Fred Uecker, and they live in section 27, Albion township. They have four children: Bernard, born August 6, 1900; Esther, born June 2, 1903; Olga, born May 15, 1906, and Annie, born July 26, 1909.

**Rudolph Koepke**, an energetic young farmer of Albion township, was born on the old homestead in section 34, son of Martin and Caroline (Schultz) Koepke. He attended the district schools, was reared to farm pursuits and remained with his parents, and after his father's death took charge of the home place with his brother Reinhold. In 1913 he bought his present place of 120 acres in sections 26 and 23, where he carries on general farming and stock raising in a successful manner. Mr. Koepke was married, September 20, 1911, to Tina Elfmann, and they have a son, Alvin, born February 11, 1913. Tina Elfmann is the daughter of Edward and Molly (Kranz) Elfmann, of section 36, Albion township. Mr. Elfmann died February 26, 1915.

**Patrick Butler** came to Wright county in 1860, and preempted 160 acres in section 27, Maple Lake township. He erected a log house, 10 by 14 feet, with a bark roof and a board floor, and started to clear the land. During the maple sugar season the Indians camped around the house, their teepees covering many acres. When the news came of the Indian uprising the family fled to Monticello for safety. So great was the fright that they left their lamp burning on the table. After the danger was over they returned and again took up their work of developing the farm. Patrick Butler died in 1886 at the age of sixty-one. His wife, Catherine Malone, died in Maple Lake village in 1909. In the family there were seventeen children. James, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth, Thomas, Catherine, Patrick, Della, Jennie, Lucy and Ellen are alive, and William (first), Catherine, Patrick, Francis, John and William (second) are dead. James lives in Albion township. He married Julia O'Loughlin, and they have three children, Catherine S., Mary Lillian and Paul Francis. Mary is the wife of Henry Gorman, of Maple Lake, and they have eleven children: William, Joseph, Patrick, Annie, Mary, Virginia, Catherine, Lillian, Esther, Genevieve and Earl. Margaret is the widow of John Moore. Elizabeth is now the wife of G. A. Cunningham, of Spokane, Wash., and they have four chil-

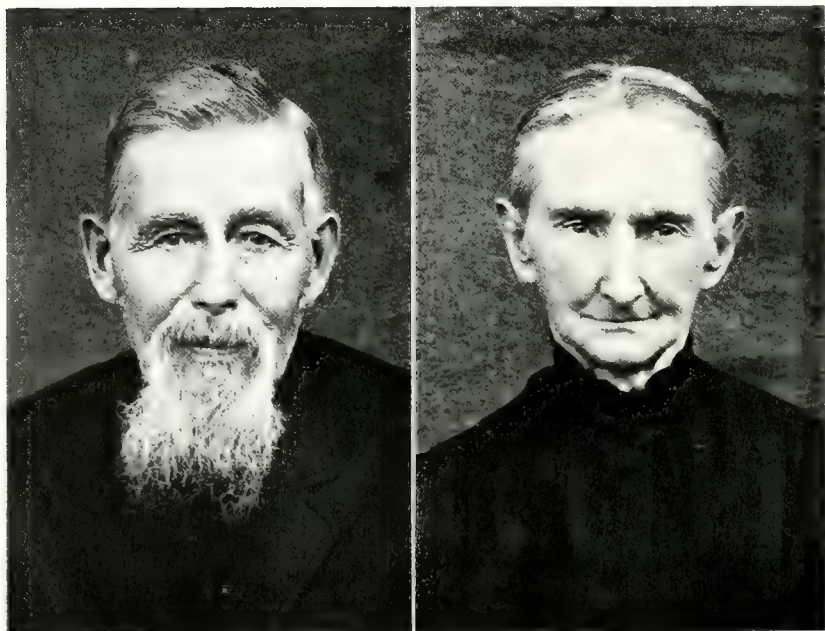
dren: Luella, who is living, and Lillian, Clarence and Catherine, who are dead. Thomas lives in Spokane, Wash.; Catherine, Patrick and Della live in Maple Lake, the last named being assistant cashier in the Maple Lake State Bank. Jennie lives in Crosby, N. D., and Lucy lives in Maple Lake. Ellen is the wife of James Woodfill, of Maple Lake, and has two children, Francis and Catherine.

**James Butler**, a respected farmer of Albion township, was born near Davenport, Iowa, July 22, 1857, oldest of the seventeen children of Patrick and Catherine (Malone) Butler, the early settlers. He attended the district schools, learned farming from his father, and remained at home until twenty-seven years of age. In 1884 he started out for himself by purchasing eighty acres in section 1, Albion township. No house had at that time been erected. He developed the place and put up a frame house 16 by 26, with a good basement, a barn 36 by 40, with eighteen-foot posts, several sheds and some neat fences. He can house twenty-four head of cattle, six horses and forty tons of hay. In 1891 he bought forty acres more, and this he has likewise developed. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of Poland China hogs and Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red chickens. Aside from being a successful agriculturist, Mr. Butler is a popular fraternity man and has been secretary of the Catholic Order of Foresters at Maple Lake. Mr. Butler was married January 6, 1897, to Julia O'Loughlin, daughter of James and Catherine (Shea) O'Loughlin, the pioneers, and they have three children: Catherine S., born October 24, 1897; Mary Lillian, born September 18, 1899, and Paul Francis, born November 18, 1902.

**James O'Loughlin**, retired, now living in Maple Lake village, was born in County Claire, Ireland, February 15, 1836. In 1853 he came to America, and was for several years employed on public works in Ohio, Illinois and Pennsylvania. It was in 1860 that he came to Wright county and settled on eighty acres of railroad land in section 31, Maple Lake township. The land was covered with timber, and in its development Mr. O'Loughlin underwent all the toils and privations of pioneer life. He cleared, grubbed and broke the land and brought it to a high stage of cultivation. As time progressed he erected suitable buildings, and to his original eighty acres he added another eighty. For many years he successfully followed general farming and became a prominent man in the community. In 1911 he retired, purchased two lots in Maple Lake village, and erected the pretty cottage where he now resides. While living in the township he was supervisor of the town for two years. He also served on the school board of his district. His family faith is that of St. Timothy Roman Catholic Church. Mr. O'Laughlin was married in 1864 to Catherine Shea. To this union there were born ten







MR. AND MRS. S. B. HOWARD

children: Mary (deceased), Annie, Cecelia, Catherine, Agnes, Julia, Sarah, John, James (deceased), and Bernard. Catherine (Shea) O'Loughlin died and Mr. O'Loughlin married Mary Sullivan.

**Martin C. Hackbarth**, a substantial resident of Albion township, was born in Germany, January 13, 1861, son of Wilhelm and Wilhelmina (Ristow) Hackbarth. He was reared in Germany, and came to America in 1879. For three years he worked in New York. Then he came to Wright county and for one year lived in Howard Lake. It was in 1884 that he came to Albion township and secured sixty-eight acres in section 15. The tract was covered with timber, no clearing had been made, and no buildings had been constructed. He erected a log house, 16 by 30 feet, with a shingle roof and a board floor. He also built a log barn 16 by 24 feet. He started with a cow, two pigs and ten chickens. He purchased a pair of steers and broke them to assist in the farm work. By hard work he has prospered, and he now has as good a farm as is to be found in the township. Mr. Hackbarth was married November 15, 1881, to Augusta Bobrowski, daughter of John and Sophia (Yonke) Bobrowski, farmers of Victor township. Mr. and Mrs. Hackbarth were the parents of fourteen children. Wilhelm assists in operating the home farm. He married Martha Newmann, and has two children. Marie married Peter Schoen. Emma married Benjamin Hartman. Bertha married Albert Neusteller, who died March 6, 1915. Henry is in South Dakota. Ida is at home. Emil, Martha and August are in North Dakota. Karl, Ernest, Lillie and Margaret are at home. One died in infancy. The mother of these children died March 3, 1905.

**Samuel B. Howard**, an influential resident of Albion township, was born near Brewer, Me., November 2, 1833, of English ancestry. His father, Jesse F. Howard, was born in Maine, June 11, 1804, and devoted his early life to lumbering. In 1863 he came to section 2, Albion township, and took a homestead. He died in 1881. His wife was Martha Robishaw. Samuel B. Howard was reared in Maine, and from his earliest childhood was interested in the lumber business. As early as when he was twelve years old he started work in a shingle mill, and from then until 1856 he was in the lumber business in Maine continuously, in the mills, in the woods and on the rivers. In 1856 he went to Forest, Mich., where he followed the same line of industry until 1865. In that year he came to Minnesota and bought fifty-seven acres in section 2, Albion township, from his father, who had previously located here. Samuel B. Howard was a true pioneer, and was intimately acquainted with many of the prominent characters of the early days. At one time he was in the employ of Major Morrill, at the Crow Wing Agency, and frequently met

Hole-in-the-Day and other famous Chippewas. He had an understanding of Indian character and never had any trouble with them. He cleared up his place in Albion township, using an ox team for seven years. His first home was a log house, 18 by 28 feet, with a board floor and a roof of oak shakes. He still lives on his original claim. He has developed and improved it, erected good buildings and brought it to a high stage of cultivation. Mr. Howard is known far and wide as a hunter. In the early days he used a Smith & Wesson carbine. Now he uses a Henry rifle, a sixteen shot pump gun, and the young men eagerly come to him to learn the fine points of deer hunting. In the early days he usually killed from eighty to ninety-five deer each fall. The customary price he received from the saddles of venison was ten cents a pound. In recent years he has killed as many as the law allows. In the fall of 1913, at the age of eighty, he brought down a splendid buck which was the envy and admiration of the younger hunters. He has also taken a deep interest in township matters, and for twelve years served as road overseer. Mr. Howard was married February 13, 1862, to Christina Lansear, daughter of Joseph and Mary Ann Lansear, who came from New York state and located in Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Howard have had ten children. Alice is the wife of William Perkins, who lives in South Side township, about three miles from South Haven. Jarvis lives at Lewis, Wis. William lives about three miles northwest from Annandale. Rolie lives on the home farm. Arthur also lives on the home farm. Dora married Milton Smith, and died in 1895 at the age of twenty-six, leaving two children. The other four died in infancy.

**Staven Cowett**, a highly esteemed resident of Albion township, was born in Hennepin county, this state, October 30, 1864, son of Isaac and Susan (Goodwin) Cowett. Isaac Cowett came to Minneapolis from Canada in 1852. In 1876 he came to Wright county, camping the first night on the present site of the courthouse at Buffalo. He came to Chatham township and bought 160 acres on the banks of Rock Lake. The tract was entirely covered with woods. He erected a cabin of hewed logs, twelve feet high, set on end. The roof was of "shakes," while the lower floor was of basswood slabs. The furniture was manufactured on the place. The plow used in breaking was brought from Minneapolis, a wooden-toothed harrow was improvised from small trees and saplings. Gradually, however, the country was settled up, the comforts and conveniences of life were available, and the family prospered. Twelve boys and ten girls were born, thirteen of whom are now living. Of these children, Staven was the fifth. With the rest of the family he went through the privations of pioneer life, and has many interesting tales to tell of the early days. He tells with special relish the story of the



STAVEN COWETT AND FAMILY









MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL RAICHE

time when as a fourteen-year-old boy, he and another boy, John Haverty, went to a dance with but one pair of shoes between them, taking turns at using the shoes, while the other waited. Mr. Cowett worked at home until some time after attaining his majority, and then worked around on different farms for some four years. In 1891 he bought forty acres in section 25, Albion township. He cleared this land and erected a cabin 16 by 20 feet, of hewed logs, with a shingled roof and basswood floor. The furniture was homemade. Fortunately he had a cow. But it was three years before he got a team and six years before he secured a wagon. By working early and late and giving to his farm work his best energy and intelligence, he has now reaped that measure of success that he so richly deserves. He owns 165 acres of good land, has a house 16 by 24 feet, with fourteen foot posts, and a 16 by 24 feet ell, a large barn, and the usual sheds and the like. He carries about thirty-seven cattle throughout the year and does considerable dairying. In addition to this he devotes considerable time to raising Poland China and Jersey Red hogs, Plymouth Rock and Buff Orpington chickens, and bronze turkeys. Mr. Cowett was married December 30, 1889, to Barbara Hessel, born in New York June 8, 1873, daughter of John and Barbara (Ertelhardt) Hessel, early settlers. Mr. and Mrs. Cowett have had six children: Matilda, John, Mary, Rose, Helen and Joseph. Matilda lives at Plenty Wood, Mont. She was born August 6, 1890; was married June 14, 1911, to James Crosby, and has one son, Gerald, born April 25, 1912. John was born January 9, 1892; Mary was born September 14, 1893; Rose was born May 24, 1894; Helen was born April 24, 1897; and Joseph was born April 15, 1899. The family are members of the Catholic Church.

**Samuel Raiche**, an extensive land owner and leading citizen of Albion township, was born in Canada, October 26, 1844, son of Ameble and Adelaide (Jutra) Raiche. He was reared and educated in Canada, and at the age of twenty-one came to the United States and secured employment making railroad ties in St. Joseph, Mo. Then he did railroad work out of St. Paul for a year. In 1867 he came to this county and lived three years on a farm one mile and a half east of Buffalo. At the expiration of this period he bought forty acres in section 35, Albion township. He erected a log house, 16 by 20 feet, with a shingled roof and a board floor, and began to establish his fortunes. He worked hard early and late, he put his best energy and intelligence into his toil, from time to time he added to his possessions, and as his means permitted he erected modern buildings. He now owns 400 acres of as good land as is to be found in the township. The land is well tilled, the fences and buildings are well kept, the live stock is of good breeds, and everything about the place



bespeaks the thrift, hard work and modern ideas of the owner. Mr. Raiche was married July 22, 1873, to Bridget Doherty, daughter of Patrick and Ellen (Flaherty) Doherty, of Minneapolis. Mrs. Raiche died October 14, 1906, leaving seven children: John, born January 17, 1876; Samuel J., born October 20, 1878; Francis, born June 8, 1880; Mary, born March 12, 1882; Margaret, born October 19, 1883; Edwin, born October 30, 1885; Elizabeth, born December 15, 1887. The family worships at St. Charles Roman Catholic Church in Chatham township.

**John A. Raiche**, an enterprising farmer of Albion township, was born in Canada November 2, 1855, son of Ameble and Adelaide (Jutra) Raiche. At the age of sixteen John A. came to Concord, N. H., and started work in a brick yard. It was in 1872 that he came to Wright county. The following year he purchased forty acres in section 35, Albion township, but at once went north to the pine country and for seven years was engaged in the timber woods winters, and on the river, rafting, during the summers. Then he returned to Albion township, sold his farm to his brother, Samuel, and bought 120 acres in section 23, Albion township. His father died in March, 1879, and John A. went to Canada and got his mother, who spent the remainder of her life with him and died at his home, July 8, 1903, at the age of eighty-four. When Mr. Raiche purchased the place in section 23, it was covered with timber. He erected a house of hewed logs, set upright, with a shingle roof and a board floor. He owned a stove, but most of the furniture was made on the place. With this beginning he has become a prosperous farmer. He has a well-improved place, with good buildings, and an excellent equipment, and successfully carries on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Raiche was married April 12, 1882, to Mary A. Archambault, daughter of Joseph and Julia (O'Shea) Archambault. Mary A. Archambault was the oldest of ten children. Her father came to Wright county during the Civil war, and located on section 13, Albion township, where he died in November, 1909. Her mother now lives in Maple Lake village. Mr. and Mrs. Raiche have had eleven children. Joseph A. was born March 11, 1883, was married October 3, 1904, to Catherine Monahan, and has two children: Michael, born August 15, 1905, and Victor A., born November 22, 1908. Adelaide was born October 28, 1884, and died January 21, 1887. John was born May 14, 1886, and lives at home. Annie was born April 6, 1888, was married September 14, 1910, to Oscar Werneke, and has one child, Edna, born June 22, 1911. Francis B. was born March 2, 1890; Auzebe A. was born January 22, 1892; Julia was born January 22, 1894; Le Roy was born July 29, 1898; Walter was born July 3, 1900; Loretta M. was born October 3, 1903; and Sidney L. was born January 13, 1911. Mr. Raiche has served as director of





MR. AND MRS. EMIL OELSCHLAGER

school district 72 for eight years. The family are communicants of the St. Timothy's Catholic Church at Maple Lake.

**Emil F. Oelschlager**, a well-to-do farmer of Albion township, was born in Germany, August 12, 1864, son of Ferdinand and Caroline (Wohlgemuth) Oelschlager, and was there reared. His stepfather, Peter Georke, and his mother, with the children of the family, came to Chatham township, this county, in 1880, and purchased 120 acres of land. Emil F. came with them, and remained until he was twenty-four years of age. In 1888 he rented eighty acres of land in section 36, Albion township, and three years later he bought it. A log house, 16 by 20 feet, with a board roof, had already been erected. Not much clearing had been done. With a yoke of steers and an old farm wagon, he started the work of bringing the place to its present high state of development. He has a slightly house, 18 by 22 feet, with a story and a half kitchen, 14 by 16 feet, and a large basement. The new barn, 32 by 60 feet, with eighteen-foot posts, is built along modern lines, and has room for twenty cattle, eight horses and sixty tons of hay. The farm is well fenced and well tilled, and the livestock is of a good grade. Mr. Oelschlager was married February 11, 1890, to Minnie Morohn, daughter of Michael and Dora (Berg) Morohn. Mrs. Oelschlager died Dec. 15, 1910. In the family there are nine children: John, born February 5, 1892; Walter, born October 24, 1893; Dora, born December 2, 1895; Robert, born Dec. 20, 1896; Harry, born January 16, 1900; George, born February 7, 1902; Esther, born March 11, 1904; Jennie, born Dec. 25, 1905; Martha, born November 29, 1907.

**Joseph P. Hannon**, a respected resident of Albion township, was born on section 23, in the township where he still lives, December 14, 1878, son of Michael and Bridget (McNulty) Hannon. He remained at home until twenty-six years of age, and then purchased forty acres in section 11, Albion township. Five years later he rented the home farm in the same section. He has a good farm of 160 acres, with good buildings and excellent equipment, and here he successfully carries on general farming and stock raising, paying especial attention to growing Minnesota No. 13, Yellow Dent corn. In the affairs of the community he has taken his part, and he is well regarded throughout the township. For three years he was road overseer. Since 1905 he has been a member of the school board of district No. 62, and in 1912 and 1913 was town assessor. He is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. Mr. Hannon was married November 23, 1904, to Margaret O'Neil, daughter of Patrick H. and Catherine (Ryan) O'Neil, and they have the following children: Catherine A., born October 13, 1905; James O'Neil, born June 16, 1907; Timothy W., born December 23, 1908; Thomas Milford, born November 3, 1911; and John Paul, born January 5, 1914.



**Patrick H. O'Neil**, of Albion township, was born in Ellsworth, Me., July 15, 1850, son of Patrick and Margaret (Desmond) O'Neil, the pioneers. Patrick O'Neil was born in County Cork, Ireland, and was there married. As a young man he came to America, and took up lumbering in the state of Maine. It was in 1857 that he came to Wright county, and located on section 31, Monticello township, where he lived until his death in 1859. The members of the family erected a two-story log cabin and started clearing the land. In 1859, the year the father died, they had little to eat but corn meal. In 1862 they fled to the stockade in Monticello township to escape from the Indians that were supposed to be coming. Patrick H. O'Neil received his education in the district schools, and as he grew to manhood took charge of the home farm. In 1895 he took up his father's old occupation of lumbering, going for this purpose to the woods in northern Minnesota. Since 1903 he has lived with his son-in-law, Joseph P. Hannon, of Albion township. He is an estimable man, and has served as a member of the school board for four years. Mr. O'Neil was married April 19, 1881, to Catherine Ryan, daughter of Luke and Catherine (Smith) Ryan, natives of Ireland. Mrs. O'Neil died December 24, 1894, leaving six children: William, of Willmar, Minn.; Frederick, of Drake, N. D.; Margaret, wife of J. P. Hannon; Mary F., wife of George Welton; Alice, wife of Conrad Behrenbrinker, of Melrose, Minn.; and Catherine, of Minneapolis. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic Church.

**John Cantin**, a prosperous citizen of Albion township, was born in Quebec, Canada, February 19, 1859, son of Louis and Lucy (Boucher) Cantin, the former of whom died in April, 1897, at the age of seventy-three years, and the latter in 1895 at the age of sixty-nine years. John Cantin left home at the age of twenty, and for thirteen years worked in the Iron river region in Michigan, as a miner and woodsman. In 1892 he came to Wright county, and for nine years rented various farms in Albion township. In 1901 he bought 174 acres in section 24. A house, two stories, 16 by 22, with a kitchen 14 by 14, stood on the place. In 1913 he erected a good barn 32 by 50, with sixteen-foot posts, having accommodations for twenty-four cattle, seven horses and fifty tons of hay. Mr. Cantin carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of stock, fowl and fruit raising. Throughout the year he keeps about twenty-four cattle, four horses, thirty-five swine, seventy-five chickens and fifty turkeys, and his orchards contain many apple and plum trees, aside from a good quantity of berry bushes and the like. Mr. Cantin has been on the school board of district 116 for twelve years. He is treasurer of St. Charles Catholic Church in Chatham township, and belongs to





MR. AND MRS. PATRICK DOHERTY, JR.

the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Cantin was married November 22, 1886, to Ovida Jolly, daughter of Eli and Filamen (Gravel) Jolly. Eli Jolly now lives at Iron River, Mich., at the age of seventy-two years. Mrs. Eli Jolly died April 1, 1885, after a long illness. Mr. and Mrs. Cantin have had nine children: Edward was born August 25, 1887, and now lives in Saskatchewan, Canada. George was born January 5, 1889, was married September 12, 1911, to Rosa Bruins, and lives near his father. William was born January 20, 1891, and lives in Saskatchewan, Canada. Emma was born September 11, 1894, and was married September 22, 1914, to William Worm, Jr., of Corinna township. Peter was born May 23, 1896; Annie, July 22, 1898; Leo, July 12, 1901; Louis, July 8, 1905; and Leona, October 30, 1906.

**Patrick Doherty, Jr.**, a scientific farmer of Albion township, was born on the homestead in section 26, in the township where he still resides, October 3, 1874, son of Patrick and Ellen (Murphy) Doherty, a sketch of whom appears elsewhere in this work. He attended the district schools, grew up on the home place, and was reared to farm pursuits. At the age of twenty-eight he bought eighty acres in section 22, Albion township, and farmed there two years. Then he sold out, and bought 130 acres in sections 2 and 11, Albion township, where he still lives. He carries on general farming and makes a specialty of Poland China swine. He has been very successful in raising Marquis wheat, which yields twenty-five per cent. better than the common varieties. In 1900 Mr. Doherty was elected supervisor of Albion township, a position he filled with much credit for three years. In May, 1903, he became town clerk, and in that capacity he still remains, having ably occupied the office and given general satisfaction to his fellow citizens. He has also been a member of the school board for a time. The Catholic Order of Foresters at Maple Lake counts him as one of its valuable members. Mr. Doherty was married June 24, 1903, to Catherine Hannon, and they have had six children: Patrick Allen, born July 14, 1905; Catherine, born August 6, 1907; Malachy, born March 10, 1909; Mathew, born January 16, 1911; Patricia, born July 26, 1913; and Mary Ellen, who was born May 27, 1904, and died July 26, of the same year. Catherine Hannon was one of Wright county's most popular teachers. She attended the district schools and the splendid schools of Minneapolis, after which she attended the St. Cloud State Normal school. Then she taught ten years in the schools of Wright county. She was born May 16, 1877, the third child of Michael and Bridget (McNulty) Hannon.

**Patrick Doherty, Sr.**, an honored resident of Albion township, was born in County Galway, Ireland, in March, 1839, son of Patrick and Ellen (Flaherty) Doherty. He came to America in



1860, his first location here being at Summit, New Jersey. For about a year he was in Louisville, Kentucky, but he soon again returned to New Jersey, and there remained some five years. Later he lived about five years in Chicago. It was in 1871 that he came to Wright county, and purchased forty acres in section 23, Albion township. He erected a log house, 18 by 24 feet, and cleared all the land. His first live stock consisted of a pair of steers and a cow. He raised a few potatoes and a little corn, but for the first two years he supported the family largely by working on the railroad. He is now one of the prosperous farmers of the township, and has a well improved place, the result of his hard work and untiring energy. He owns 120 acres in section 23, and successfully carries on general farming, with the assistance of various members of his family.

Patrick Doherty, Sr., was married May 15, 1866, to Ellen Murphy, daughter of William and Ann Murphy, the former of whom was a shepherd in Ireland. Nine children were born in the Doherty family. Nellie was born February 26, 1867 and died January 4, 1875. Owen was born October 19, 1868, and died January 28, 1875. Both died of diphtheria. William was born November 2, 1872. He married Mary Gorman, and their children are Bessie, Frances, Nellie, Catherine and Regina. Patrick Jr. has already been mentioned. Owen was born December 20, 1876, married Margaret Scanlon, and has two children, Ralph and James. James, the next child of Patrick Doherty, Sr., was born April 19, 1878. Elizabeth was born April 5, 1880, married Thomas Mooney, and has five children, Helen, James, Russell, Francis and Elizabeth. Nellie was born June 2, 1882, and married Edward Scanlon. Ann was born June 14, 1886. The family worships at St. Charles' Catholic church in Chatham township.

**Mons Anderson**, now deceased, was a law-abiding, honest citizen, and his memory is still held in reverence throughout the community. He was born in Sweden in 1851, and was there reared. Upon coming to America he lived several years in Colorado. It was in 1878 that he came to Albion township and bought sixty-five acres in section 33, where he died January 8, 1892, as the result of being kicked by a horse. Mr. Anderson was married June 27, 1879, to Annie Johnson, daughter of John and Mary (Anderson) Johnson, and this union was blessed with six children: August, who was born September 30, 1881, and operates the home farm; Josephine, who was born July 17, 1886, and married Emil Wirsen, of Duluth; Nels, born September 5, 1888, who lives at home, and three who died in infancy. Mrs. Annie Johnson Anderson was married November 17, 1893, to Andrew Marsch, and they have five children: Albert, born August 29, 1894; Oscar, born January 22, 1897; Charles, born March 22,

1899; Mabel and Frieda (twins), born May 1, 1903. John Johnson and his good wife, Mary Anderson, were born in Sweden, came to America in 1873, and located on forty acres of land in section 28, Albion township, in 1880. He died in October, 1910, while the mother died August 31, 1905. They were the parents of six children: Andrew, who lives in Spicer, Minn.; George, who lives in section 28, Albion township; John, deceased; Annie, now Mrs. Andrew Marsch; Christine, living in New York; and Betsey, now Mrs. Andrew Dahlgren.

**John B. Fashant**, a leading farmer of Albion township, was born in Eden, Wis., July 8, 1860, a son of Alexander and Mary B. (Terion) Fashant, the pioneers. Alexander Fashant was born in Belgium and was there married. In September, 1855, he came to America, located near Eden, Wis., and farmed there for some years. It was in 1863 that he came to Wright county and located on seventy-two acres in section 19, Albion township. None of this tract had been cleared. On it, however, was the place where 150 Indians had their maple-sugar camp, and from which they carted sugar to Elk River and Monticello. The old fire kiln which the Indians used is still standing on the place, and has been preserved as a historic relic of almost forgotten days. Alexander Fashant set at work and erected a log cabin 16 by 20 feet. The roof was of split logs and the floor was of trampled earth. He brought his family here in 1865. The Fashants were fortunate in having two horse teams, a plow and a harrow. They had brought good furniture with them from Wisconsin. Provisions, however, were scarce, and hardships were many. At one time the father hauled a barrel of flour from St. Paul, for which he had paid \$16 in cash. Alexander Fashant died in Wisconsin, March 4, 1910, at the age of eighty-seven years. His wife died in Annandale, this county, March 27, 1904, at the age of eighty-five years. John B. Fashant came here with his parents and remained with them until their death. He bought the home farm in 1897. Only twenty acres had at that time been cleared. He has developed the land, added ten acres more to the original tract, and greatly improved it, and now carries on general farming on an extensive scale. Aside from the usual crops he raises Jersey and Shorthorn cattle, Poland China and Jersey Red swine, Buff Wyandotte, Plymouth Rock and Black Minorca fowls, Surprise plums and Hybernal, Wealthy and Northwestern Greening apples. Mr. Fashant is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America and the Woodmen of the World. The family faith is that of the Christian Advent Church. Mr. Fashant was married January 10, 1900, to Josephine Burchette, daughter of Merideth and Mary (McCoy) Burchette, of Albion township, and this union has been blessed with three children: Golden Tillou, born Decem-

ber 26, 1900; Irene Josephine, born October 24, 1902; and Ailey Elizabeth, born July 18, 1905.

**Sylvester N. Dunn**, a leading farmer of Albion township, was born in Warren county, Ohio, April 24, 1850, son of James and Lucy Ann (Fairchilds) Dunn, who took him to Wells county, Indiana, in 1851. The father died in 1853. When the Civil war broke out, Sylvester N. desired earnestly to enlist. Finally on October 27, 1864, when he was but fourteen years of age, he swore that he was eighteen years of age, and enlisted in Co. H, 119th Indiana, under Captain John M. Moore and Colonel John Peter Clevershanks, one time governor of Indiana. Mr. Dunn participated in the Guntown raid, so-called, from Memphis, Tenn., to Guntown, Mo., lasting nearly a month. He also took part in the fight with Ford's guerrillas at La Grange, Tenn. Although twenty-five out of the detachment of forty were killed, he escaped without a wound. In the winter of 1864 he was one of the command of 8,000 men who entered the great swamp near Gaines Landing, Ark. The troops were thirty days in crossing this swamp of seventy-five miles diameter, thus making less than three miles a day. During six of these days Private Dunn was without food. Portions of the swamp were seemingly bottomless, and the passage was most difficult, 1,300 men being lost during the thirty days. Of 1,500 negroes who followed after them, only 500 survived. After his return from the war, Mr. Dunn worked for a time as a farmhand. He was married at the age of eighteen, and then continued farming in the same neighborhood for two years. In 1879 he went to Clay county, Nebraska, and purchased a farm which he operated for seven years. In 1877 he sold out and moved back to Indiana. It was in 1879 that he came to Wright county and bought eighty acres in section 12, Albion township, where he now resides. This was all wild land, and he started as a pioneer. He built a one-story log house, 18 by 24 feet. The roof was of shingles and the floor was made of boards. He cleared all the land, the only help he had being a man that he hired for one day. After he had cut off the trees, he put in his crops as best he could and allowed the stumps to crumble away. He now has a well-developed, well-improved place, with good buildings, and an excellent equipment, and carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a member of the G. A. R. The family faith is that of the First Day Adventist Church. Mr. Dunn was married in 1868 to Christina Gaskell, daughter of Samuel and Catharine (Glass) Gaskell, who were Indiana farmers. Mr. and Mrs. Dunn have had eight children. Nancy is the wife of J. E. Williams, of Frederick, Wis. Solomon lives in Minneapolis. Catharine is the wife of M. E. Smith, of Alexandria, Minn. Oscar lives near Maple Lake. Frank is attending the



MR. AND MRS. SYLVESTER N. DUNN





University of Minnesota. Isaac lived at Melrose and died in 1909 at the age of 36. Two died in infancy.

**Henry N. Schaefer**, an extensive and prosperous farmer, dairyman and stock raiser of Albion township, was born in Robinsdale, Minn., November 20, 1868, son of John and Susan (Orth) Schaefer, and grandson of Nicholas Schaefer. Nicholas Schaefer, one of the worthy pioneers, was born in Germany, of a sturdy old family, and came to America in 1853, locating on a farm in Hennepin county, this state, where he died in 1881. John Schaefer came to America in 1854 and drove overland to California, where he remained five years. In 1859 he bought his father's farm in Hennepin county, this state. There he lived and labored until 1892, when he bought 313 acres of land in sections 1 and 12, Albion township, this county, where he lived until his death in 1896. He was a good citizen, and his loss was sincerely mourned. Henry N. Schaefer was reared in Hennepin county, and there remained until twenty years of age. Then he went to the state of Washington and remained there three years. In 1891 he came back to Hennepin county and rented a farm for a year. After this he rented the home farm in the same county for five years. His next move was to purchase a farm of 280 acres in Morris county, Minnesota. In 1901 he sold out there, bought 160 acres in Maple Lake township, this county, and farmed there six years. In 1907 he rented the home farm in Albion township, where he still remains. He carries on general farming along the latest improved lines, and is one of the leading men of the township. His home is a sightly one, the barns and sheds are in the best of condition, and a special feature is the large silo with a capacity of 145 tons. Among other livestock on the place may be mentioned 109 head of cattle, of which thirty are milking cows; 100 Poland China swine, and six horses, as well as some sprightly barnyard fowl. Mr. Schaefer is a popular member of the M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W. He was married November 14, 1903, to Anna Gorman, daughter of Henry and Mary Ann (Butler) Gorman, pioneers of Maple Lake township. Mr. and Mrs. Schaefer have six children: Irving, born May 17, 1905; Evelyn, born November 4, 1906; Lillian, born September 11, 1908; Albert, born December 4, 1909; John, born December 2, 1911; and Melvin, born March 14, 1914.

**Reinhold Koepke**, one of the active young agriculturists of Albion township, was born on the old homestead in section 34, Albion township, January 28, 1889, son of Martin and Caroline (Schultz) Koepke. Like the other boys of his age and time, he passed through the district schools, and worked summers on the farm. When his father died he and his brother Rudolph took charge of the home farm. In 1913 he bought the place and has

since conducted it. He owns eighty acres, carries on general farming, and raises Holstein cattle and Poland China and Jersey Red swine. Mr. Koepke was married November 12, 1913, to Alna Sandmann, the third child of Henry and Magdalena (Behneke) Sandmann, who own a farm near Webster, in Scott county, this state.

**Claphase Brun**, a substantial farmer of Albion township, was born in Montreal, Canada, April 21, 1859, son of Paul and Aurelia Brun, of French birth. Paul Brun came to St. Paul, Chester county, Province of Quebec, Canada, in 1861 and died there in 1895. The mother died at Saco, Minn., in 1907. Claphase Brun was reared on the home farm in Canada, and came to the United States in 1879 and secured work in the Michigan woods. In 1888 he came to Minnesota, found his way to Wright county, and secured 104 acres in section 10. Eight acres of the tract had been cleared of trees, but the stumps were still standing. His first act was to build a log cabin. This was a primitive affair, but much better than the cabins of the earlier days. It was built of hewed logs, with a board floor and a shingled roof, and was 24 by 26 feet in size. When he came here, Mr. Brun had one cow. He bought six swine and a pair of oxen and thus began his farming operations. His trading point was at Maple Lake. With this beginning Mr. Brun has become a prosperous farmer. He has a well improved place, and carries on general farming, raising blue stem wheat, yellow dent corn, Shorthorn cattle, Poland China swine and Plymouth Rock fowls. Mr. Brun was married January 27, 1880, to Victoria Possion, daughter of Marcel and Mary Charity Possion, of Canada. In the family there are eight children. Paul was born February 5, 1881, and died April 8, 1883. Delphine was born January 14, 1883. She was married June 23, 1908, to William Gagnon, of St. Cloud, and they have two children, Philip and Bernice. Albert was born April 8, 1884. Clara was born April 21, 1886, was married September 24, 1912, to John Fouquette, of Chatham township, and died May 7, 1913. Annie was born November 14, 1887. Alphonse was born April 7, 1889. Mary was born January 4, 1892, was married October 26, 1910, to Joseph Jude, and lives two miles east of Maple Lake, and has four children, Catherine, Marvin, Frederick and John. Josephine was born September 17, 1894, and lives at home. The family faith is that of the Catholic Church.

**Andrew Hillman**, a prosperous business man of Albion township, was born in Wester Jötland, Sweden, April 26, 1865, son of Jonas and Annie (Johnson) Hillman, who came from Sweden to America in 1873, lived in New York state a little over seven years, and in 1881 came to Wright county and purchased eighty acres in section 28, Albion township, erected a log house 16 by 20,







MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL HANNON

cleared the land and developed a good farm, on which the mother still lives at the age of eighty-one, and where the father died November 6, 1910, at the age of seventy-seven years. Andrew Hillman was brought here by his parents and remained at home until about twenty years of age. Then for three years he worked at Lake Minnetonka, in this state, and three years in Kansas City, Mo. Then he came home, bought the home farm and operated it for two years. Then he and his brother, August, purchased a threshing machine and a portable sawmill which they operated in partnership for fourteen years. In 1907 he bought his brother's interest, and since then he has successfully conducted the business alone. He also does considerable work in digging and drilling wells. He is a prosperous citizen in every respect and is one of the best known men in the community. He bought eighty acres in section 28, Albion township, in 1909, moved on this farm in 1910 and still resides there. For six years he has been on the school board of district 107, and since the spring of 1912 he has been a township officer. Mr. Hillman was married November 10, 1909, to Tillie Lundsten, and they have one son, Arnold V., born August 1, 1911. Tillie Lundsten was born October 15, 1877, the daughter of Andrew and Sarah Lundsten, who came to Wright county in 1878. Andrew Lundsten died in June, 1881, at the age of fifty-nine. His wife died in 1878 at the age of sixty-two. The family worships with the Herman Swedish Lutheran congregation in section 28, Albion township.

**Michael Hannon**, for many years a leading farmer of Albion township, was born in Kings County, Ireland, February 24, 1842, and was there reared. In 1868 he came to America and took up his residence in New York City. It was in 1873 that he came to Wright county and purchased eighty acres of land in section 23, Albion township. He cleared, broke and "grubbed" the heavy timber land, erected a good set of buildings, and there successfully farmed until 1885, when he sold out, and purchased a farm of 120 acres in section 11, likewise in Albion township. Mr. Hannon has been a very prominent and influential citizen in Albion, taking his part in every move which he believed to be for the best interests of the people. He served as assessor continuously for twenty-four years, and later he served two more terms in the same office. For ten years he did good service as clerk of his school district. The family faith is that of St. Timothy's Roman Catholic Church at Maple Lake. Mr. Hannon was married August 15, 1873, at New York City, to Bridget McNulty, who throughout their married years has proven a devoted and capable wife. Mr. and Mrs. Hannon have had seven children: John died in infancy. Mary is the wife of Patrick Flaherty, of Tenny, Minn. Catherine A. is now Mrs.

Patrick Doherty, Jr., of Albion township; Joseph P. lives on the old farm in Albion township; James F. is in the elevator business at Tenny, Minn. William F., twin brother of James E., is a banker at Hammel, Minn. Francis died in infancy.

**Orestus L. Dudley**, one of the well-known men of Buffalo, has had an important part in the upbuilding of the Northwest. Whether as a veteran fighting for his country's honor, a railroad constructor carrying to the wilderness the means of rapid transportation, or a business man working for the progress of his village, he has done his duty as he has seen it, and now in the afternoon of life he is enjoying the fruits of his years of hard labor. O. L. Dudley was born in Mt. Holley, Rutland county, Vermont, October 3, 1828, son of Asa W. and Mary (Sawyer) Dudley. The father likewise was a native of Vermont, and came to Minnesota in 1859. The children in the family were: Ferdinand, Ryland R., Orestus L., Lorenzo Edward, Mary Elvira, Leona A., Ellen and Alice. Orestus L., the third in this family, took up railroad work at the age of twenty, and thus had varied experiences in different parts of the country. At twenty-one years of age he helped string the first telegraph wire that ever crossed the Green mountains of Vermont. The years 1854-55 and part of 1856 found him in Delaware. His brother, Lorenzo, was at that time still in Rutland county, Vermont. Both agreed to meet at the town of St. Charles, Ill. They met there in the month of October, 1856, and started for Minnesota on the famous old "War Eagle." The boat sank on the second day of the trip. But the passengers were transferred to another boat and in due time reached St. Paul. From St. Paul the brothers walked to Monticello, in this county, and after looking about for a while selected a claim of 160 acres in Buffalo township, about a mile and a half east of the village. They erected a small cabin, kept house themselves, and devoted their time to making a small clearing. There were many hardships to be overcome, and the walking trip from St. Paul was many times repeated when the brothers were out of provisions. In the fall of 1860, O. L. Dudley married Mrs. Dorleski Blakely. When the war broke out, he sent his wife East for protection and in February, 1862, he enlisted in the Second Battalion, Minnesota Light Artillery. The command was assigned to the Army of the Tennessee. Private Dudley served two years and four days, and showed his courage at the Battle of Perrysville, the Seven Days' Fight of Stony River and the Battle of Knob Gap, as well as in minor skirmishes. He escaped injury in battle, but had his leg broken on a long march, as the result of which he was first sent to the camp hospital at Murfreesboro, transferred to hospitals at Nashville, Tenn., thence to Louisville, Ky., and thence to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where he was discharged. Upon his return his wife came back from the East



MR. AND MRS. O. L. DUDLEY





and they started farming on his claim. Mr. Dudley worked with an ox team, and the place gradually began to assume the aspects of a cultivated farm. In 1866 he built in the village of Buffalo the house where he now makes his home. It was one of the first frame houses in this vicinity. In the spring of 1869 he became road master on the line of the St. Paul & Pacific Railroad Company from Minneapolis to Willmar, with headquarters at Minneapolis. During this period he became a member of the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce. In 1872, while with the St. Paul and Pacific Railroad Company, he was chosen by Superintendent Charles Hathway, of Cleveland, Ohio, as foreman in the construction at St. Paul of the first street railway built in the state of Minnesota. After fulfilling these duties he returned to the employ of the St. Paul and Pacific Company. In 1878, with A. P. Nelson as a partner, he entered into the lumber and general mercantile business at Grove City, in Meeker county. In 1885 he returned to Buffalo. The same year he built a large building, the upper floor of which is occupied by the Dudley Opera House and the lower floor of which he used as a store. In 1889 he sold the stock of goods to Frank Crookshank, retaining the building. The theater is now managed by his grandson, John Walter Dudley. Mr. Dudley has now practically retired from active life, though he still retains his investments and handles stock to a certain extent. He has been an earnest friend of Buffalo and is highly respected. At one time he gave to the village the most beautiful block in the village limits as a public park. Trees were planted and it seemed that the park was established. But the authorities neglected to care for it, the property reverted to Mr. Dudley, and several business blocks have been erected on it. Mr. Dudley is a Blue Lodge and Chapter Mason. Mrs. Dudley, a most capable lady who was deeply beloved by all who knew her, died in 1895. There was one child in the family, Lasa W. He married Susan McKnight and died in 1896, leaving two children. Frances Ina is a teacher and John Walter is manager of the Dudley Opera House.

**Albert G. Redman**, until recently manager of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery, at Buffalo, was born at Albee, South Dakota, November 18, 1882, son of Michael and Margaret (Friday) Redman. Michael Redman was born in Posen, Germany, came to America at the age of seventeen years, and located in Green Lake county, Wisconsin, where he met and married Margaret Friday. They lived on a farm at Markesan, Green Lake county, Wisconsin, until about 1879, then moved to Lamberton, Minn., in 1879, farmed one year, and in 1880 moved to Albee, S. D., where Michael Redman died in March, 1893, and where his wife is still living. The children in the family were as follows: Anna, wife of E. M. Gollnick, of Springfield, Mo.; Mary,

wife of J. A. Dauman, of Albee, S. D.; Rose, wife of Henry Marquardt, of Albee, S. D.; Laura, wife of Rowe Shaw, of Albee; Clara, wife of Edward Marquardt, of Albee; George G., of Albee; Albert G., of Buffalo; Lillian, who lives with Albert G.; W. E., of Montrose; E. W., of Howard Lake; C. A., of Osseo, Minn. All the sons are expert butter makers, and all are masters in this branch of industry. Albert G. received his education in the public schools of Albee. At the age of sixteen he started working out among the neighboring farmers. At the age of eighteen he started to learn the art of butter making. He mastered this work thoroughly and remained until 1907. In that year he came to Wright county as butter maker at St. Michaels. Seven months later he went to Monticello, where he remained a month. It was in July, 1908, he came to Buffalo, and took charge of the Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery. He has since continued to fill this position. In his chosen line he has few superiors. In addition to this he is a clever business man, an affable and approachable gentleman, and a splendid musician. For the past five years he has been superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Sunday school. So highly has his good judgment been regarded that he has been given a seat on the village council, serving five years. In this capacity he has done excellent work. For two years he was vice president of the Butter and Cheese Makers' Association, of Minnesota, and for the past two years he has been president of that body, a position which he has filled with credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of the dairy workers of the state. Mr. Redman is a member of Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, A. F. and A. M.; Buffalo Lodge, No. 183, A. O. U. W.; and Buffalo Chapter, No. 71, R. A. M. His wife is a member of the Woman's Relief Corps. Mr. Redman was married November 2, 1904, at Albee, S. D., to Addie B. Hall, born in that place February 12, 1883. They have three children: Celestia A., born August 10, 1905; Ruth M., born May 26, 1909; and James H., born September 3, 1911. Mrs. Redman is the daughter of James and Celia (Loing) Hall, natives respectively of Antwerp, N. Y., and Amherst, Wis. They were married at Amherst, Wis., and from that place in 1881 came as pioneers overland to Albee, S. D., where they took a homestead and farmed for several years. Mr. Hall died in 1885, leaving three children, Egbert, of Albee, S. D., a painter and decorator; Addie B., now Mrs. A. G. Redman, of Buffalo; and Walter W., a farmer of Albee, S. D. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Hall married G. W. Friday. They conduct a hotel at Albee, S. D. This marriage has resulted in one son, Edward Friday.

**John K. Engels**, a substantial business man of Buffalo, was born in West Seneca township, Erie county, New York, seven miles south of Buffalo, N. Y., July 1, 1864, son of Jacob and Mary

(Weasy) Engels. Jacob Engels was born in Germany in 1842, came to the United States in 1855 and took up farming in Erie county, New York. He married Mary Weasy, who was born in Germany in 1838 and came to the United States in 1861. He died in 1903 and she is still living. The children in the family were John, Emma, Henry, Lottie, William, and David and Daniel, twins (deceased). John K. Engels was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools. For several years he worked as a teamster and in sawmills. In 1887 he came to Buffalo and located on a tract of ten acres, where he devoted his attention extensively to horticulture. In 1905 he established an ice business at Buffalo, and in this he has been most successful. He does a good business and stands in high favor with his customers. He is a member of Buffalo Lodge No. 134, I. O. O. F. Mr. Engels was married in 1898 to Adeline Varner, daughter of John Varner, Sr., and they have two children, Frances, born February 10, 1900, and Evangeline, born April 6, 1901.

**John Varner, Sr.**, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, July 11, 1834, and was reared to manhood in his native state. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he enlisted at Sandy Creek, Pa., in Co. K, Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served eighteen months, being mustered out at Pittsburgh, Pa. In the spring of 1866 he started westward with his brothers. At Prairie Du Chien they crossed the Mississippi river to McGregor, and came with teams and wagons to Buffalo, this county. This entire trip of six weeks was made overland from Pennsylvania with mule teams. Mrs. Varner and two children came later by train to Monticello. Mr. Varner bought the eighty-acre homestead of Chandler Chamberlain for \$400. At that time a small granary stood on the place. The family suffered the first winter from the severe cold, and provisions were very scarce. Sometimes the family existed for days on nothing but corn meal bread. But when the spring came, they managed to get in some crops, and with their team of oxen they continued to clear the land and develop a farm. As the years continued, success crowned their efforts, and they became substantial members of the community. Mr. Varner took a deep interest in education matters and served in school offices for many years. In 1863, John Varner, Sr., married Frances Hickman, born in Pennsylvania, January 9, 1844, daughter of William and Sarah (Stover) Hickman. Mr. and Mrs. Varner had eleven children: William, Minnie, Letta, Reuel (deceased), Simeon, Charles, Adeline, Grace, Francis, John and Alice. William Hickman was of Scotch-Irish descent, and spent his life in Pennsylvania. His wife was of German descent. Their children were: Simeon, Christina, Priscilla, Francis, William (a veteran of the Civil war), Rebekah, Sadie, Elmira, Hannah and John.



**Halvor T. Moland**, postmaster at Buffalo, was born in Norway, April 21, 1860, son of Thomas J. Moland, who died in 1900 at the age of eighty-two, and of Mary (Halvorsen) Moland, who died in 1870, at the age of forty-three. Halvor T. Moland was reared in Norway, and graduated from the Military School at Kristiansand in that country. In 1881 he came to America and located in Mower county, Minnesota, where he worked for some three years. It was in 1884 that he came to Wright county and bought land in section 17, Silver Creek township, which he improved and developed. In 1902 he sold out and came to Buffalo, where he devoted his time to drainage engineering and surveying. From the time of his arrival until August 24, 1914, he was county surveyor and drainage engineer. On the latter date he became postmaster of Buffalo. Mr. Moland was married October 30, 1894, to Alice M. Bryant, born October 25, 1875, daughter of Charles H. and Belinda Bryant, farmers of Silver Creek township. Mr. and Mrs. Moland have had three children: Emily M., born April 17, 1896; now a junior in Carleton College, Northfield, Minn.; Thomas O., born October 13, 1900, now attending high school; and James I., born November 3, 1904, and died September 8, 1905.

**Martin F. Lowe, D.D.S.**, a leading professional man and former mayor of Buffalo, was born in Dane county, Wisconsin, January 5, 1864, son of Thomas and Barbara (Cleland) Lowe, of English and Scottish descent respectively. In the family there were two children, Martin F. and John W. The career of Martin F. Lowe has been typical of the many American youths who struggle to obtain an education, and then in after years reach the heights of success and comfort. First he passed through the district schools of his neighborhood, and then studied in the high school at Columbus, in the same state. In 1885 he came to Minnesota, and secured employment three years as a bookkeeper in Minneapolis. Then he taught school one year in Wright county and one year in Martin county. Long before this he had decided what profession he was to make his serious life work. Consequently, in 1891 he entered the dental department of the University of Minnesota, and was graduated in 1894. Buffalo appealed to him as a suitable place for residence and business, and he consequently opened his office here. He has a well-equipped set of offices and enjoys the confidence of a large clientele. For four years he served proficiently as president of the village council of Buffalo. He is affiliated with the Masonic body at Buffalo. Dr. Lowe was married in 1903 to Ada M. Ponsford, daughter of William Ponsford, the Wright county pioneer, and they have two children, Doris Janet and Mary Elizabeth.

**Fritz Sternberg**, popular and successful merchant, proprietor of the Daylight Store, the largest establishment of its kind in

Buffalo, was born in East Prussia, Germany, April 3, 1860, son of John George and Caroline (Krink) Sternberg. By his first marriage, John George Sternberg had three children, Wilhelmina, Augusta and Magdaline. By his second marriage he had five children, Leopoldine, Mary, Ida, Bertha and Fritz. Of these children, Fritz was the only one to come to America. He was educated in his native country, and in 1881 came to St. Paul, where he worked five years for Bernard Mitchell. After this with a partner, under the firm name of Rothbauer & Sternberg, he had a grocery store on West Seventh street, St. Paul, for nearly seven years. After selling out his interests in 1891, he took an extended trip back to his old home in Germany, spending a considerable period in visiting his relatives. Upon his return in 1892 he engaged in business in Duluth for two years. In 1895 he came to Buffalo and opened a small store. About 1897 he purchased his present place, where he carries a large line of general merchadise. He has a large store, his goods are of the best, he is known far and wide for honesty and square dealing, and he has been unusually prosperous and successful. Mr. Sternberg married Ida Marshall, a native of Wright county, daughter of Gotfried Marshall, the pioneer, and they have four children, Fred, Ida, Lydia and Abigail.

**Herman A. Nagel**, a popular agriculturist, residing on the outskirts of the village of Buffalo, was born in Rockford township, section 18, December 18, 1867, son of Eberhardt F. and Louisa (Keherbach) Nagel, the pioneers, who are appropriately mentioned elsewhere. He was educated in the district schools, and remained with his parents until their death. In 1898, when the old homestead was sold, he moved with his parents to the forty-acre tract partly in the village of Buffalo, on which he still resides. When he came to the place only four acres had been broken. It is now one of the prettiest small farms in the county. Its well improved acres yield abundant crops, and its substantial buildings overlook beautiful Buffalo lake. Mr. Nagel makes a specialty of good stock and Plymouth Rock chickens, and his operations have been unusually successful. He is one of the prominent men of the community, and before coming to Buffalo served as one of the officers of the school district in Rockford which his father helped to organize and in which he himself attended school as a boy. In Buffalo he has been a member of the board of education since 1907. He is a member of the A. F. and A. M. and of the M. W. A., while his wife is a member of the Eastern Star and the Royal Neighbors. Mr. Nagel was married July 2, 1895, to Mary Steinhilber, born in Rockford township, the daughter of George Steinhilber, who was born in Germany, came to Rockford in the early days, and died when his daughter was a small child. Mr. and Mrs. Nagel have three

bright children: George, born October 22, 1897, who is following in his father's footsteps in his interest in farming, and Edward and Mary, twins, born July 30, 1906, who are in their third year in school, young Edward being named from his uncle, Edward M. Nagel, a prominent public man.

**Peter J. Marsh**, one of the best known men in Wright county, was born in Manlius, Onondaga county, New York, May 2, 1851, son of Peter Smith and Mary (Swain) Marsh, and grandson of Nicholas Marsh and Horace and Catherine Swain. He was reared to boyhood in his native state, and at the age of twelve was taken to LaGrange county, Indiana. When he was sixteen he started out in life for himself as a farmer. In 1874 he was married, and in 1876 he and his young wife, with their daughter, Blanche M., now widow of Albert Denney, started westward with a team of horses, a pioneer wagon, and their household goods, to establish for themselves a home in the wilderness. Their intention was to locate in Wisconsin, but not liking the country which they looked over in that state they continued on their way until they reached Wright county, Minnesota. Thus, after a tedious journey of thirty days, they found themselves among strangers in a new country, with but \$20 in their possession. But with courage sustained by their great faith in the future they set about to overcome difficulties and win success. They rented a small place, and Mrs. Marsh looked well after the household affairs, while Mr. Marsh threshed and worked at such labor as he could find to do. The grasshoppers partly destroyed the crops, and the severe pinch of poverty was felt throughout the county. Later better times came, and the family prospered. In the fall of 1878 they bought forty acres of wild land in section 16, Rockford township. No buildings had been erected, and no clearings had been made. Mr. Marsh cleared a small tract, erected a log cabin, and with his wife and two children, Blanche M. and Frank, took up his home there. In this log building, 16 by 26 feet, all the other children were born. Thus settled in a permanent home, Mr. Marsh set at work to establish his fortunes. Entirely by his own efforts he cleared and developed the land and brought it under cultivation. To the original tract he added eighty acres, which likewise had to be cleared. But he was hard-working and industrious, and in time he had transformed the wilderness into a fertile farm. In the barn-yard was erected the only octagon-shaped barn in the country, an innovation which has ever since justified the faith which Mr. Marsh put in its utility. Other buildings were also erected, good fences built, modern machinery purchased, and conveniences installed. During these years the family gained a most admirable place in the community. Many children were reared, and out of the household came seven daughters to teach in the public schools of the



MR. AND MRS. PETER J. MARSH





county as well as three sons to take their share in its work and progress. Mr. Marsh early took a lead in the affairs of the community, and his genial disposition, his helpful spirit, and his trained ability made him a valuable asset to the township. For nearly two decades he held the office of school clerk, and for one term he assessed the township. He is now a member of the Buffalo village council. He also served on various committees at various times. Mrs. Marsh was a capable farmer's wife, carefully reared her children, and was noted for her hospitality. The farming community in which they had taken so prominent a part felt its loss keenly when, in 1912, they sold their farm, retired from extensive agricultural operations, and moved to the village of Buffalo. They have a slightly brick residence in one of the picturesque localities in the village. All the modern comforts have been introduced and the home is an ideal one in every respect. In connection with the home is a tract of thirteen and a half acres of good land, where Mr. Marsh still busies himself with gardening operations. Mr. Marsh is a member of the Masonic body and of the Workmen. His wife belongs to the Eastern Star. Peter J. Marsh was married April 7, 1874, in La Grange county, Indiana, to Mary J. Barber, daughter of Jackson and Phoebe A. (Hawley) Barber, and granddaughter of James and Hannah Barber. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh have had eleven children. Blanche M. was born August 25, 1875, and married Albert Denney, now deceased. Frank Henry was born March 31, 1877. Alma Bell was born October 16, 1878, and married Emil Leerssen. Dora Ella was born May 14, 1880, and married John Schefchik. Effie Augusta was born October 25, 1882, and married John Walker. Mabel Zoa was born May 25, 1885, and married Oscar Sandstrom. Grace Edith was born May 27, 1887; and Myrtle Ena, May 28, 1891. Peter J., Jr., was born June 12, 1889, and died October 5, 1890. Clayton Fletcher was born April 8, 1893, and Ralph Leo, March 23, 1896. Mr. and Mrs. Marsh thoroughly believe in education. To educate this large family and at the same time maintain a large farm, has meant much toil and many sacrifices, but as the result of their work they have reared a family that is a credit to them and a help to the community. The genealogical history on both sides of the family is most interesting. Nicholas Marsh was of New England stock, but spent the whole span of his life as a farmer in New York state. His wife was descended from the Hollanders who in colonial days settled in the Mohawk valley. Their children were: Peter Smith, Walter, Randall, William, Kleeber D., Angeline and Adeline. Peter Smith Marsh was born in Onondaga county, New York, November 30, 1818. He was reared in his native state and there operated a small farm. In the spring of 1863 he took his family to La Grange county, Indiana, and located in Mill-

ford township, on eighty acres, only eleven acres of which had been cleared. Later he sold this and purchased forty acres which he also cleared and developed. Later he moved to Belle Plaine, Sumner county, Kansas, where he engaged in the mercantile business. There he and his wife both died. He married Mary Swain, the daughter of Horace and Catherine Swain, and their children were as follows: Catherine K., wife of Mrs. Philip Voorus, born January 2, 1843, died June 15, 1914; Charles R., born November 15, 1844, died in infancy; Horace N., born December 16, 1846, for a long time lived in Red Creek, Wayne county, New York, and died January 15, 1895; Augusta, born January 18, 1849, and married George Rowland; Peter J., of Wright county, Minn.; Alice, born July 30, 1853, and died at the age of seven years; Hattie M., of La Grange county, Indiana, born November 22, 1864, and married George Clester (now deceased). Horace Swain was born in New England, of Puritan stock. He was a farmer and tobacco raiser, and also owned a cigar factory. By his wife, Catherine, he had five children, John (a California Forty-niner), Esther, Mary, Hannah and Lucinda. Jackson Barber was born in Stark county, Ohio, March 13, 1823, son of James and Hannah Barber, and as a young man came to Indiana and farmed in Millford township, La Grange county. He died June 13, 1902. In April, 1851, he married Phoebe A. Hawley, who was born February 17, 1831, and died in August, 1871. The children born to this family were: Alice A., born February 17, 1852; Harriet P., born August 31, 1853; Mary J., born August 18, 1855; Laura, born October 26, 1857; Leonard, born August 4, 1859; Flora E., June 5, 1862; Sherman, January 19, 1864; George Albert, January 8, 1867; Dora Bell, December 7, 1869.

**Garrett F. Woolley**, a successful and substantial business man of Buffalo, was born in Medina, Ohio, September 20, 1854, son of Williams and Ellen Ann (Amerman) Woolley, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Ohio. For some years Williams Woolley farmed and operated an abattoir near Cleveland, Ohio, where he sold his meat wholesale. In 1862 the family went to Galena, and from there embarked on a Mississippi river boat, reaching Olmsted county, this state, in the fall. The part of the trip that was not made on water was accomplished by driving. In the family at the time were four children, William B., Garrett F., and Perry and Mary, twins. Upon reaching Olmsted county, they settled in Viola township, where the parents lived for many years until their retirement to Lamberton, in the same county, where he died. He lived to a good old age, and had the great joy of celebrating his golden wedding anniversary. Mrs. Woolley still resides in Lamberton, hale and hearty, at the advanced age of 84 years. In addition to the children they brought with them

to the state, three more, John, Jennie and Roy, were born in Olmsted county. Garrett F. Woolley was reared and educated in Olmsted county, and farmed there for several years. He was also in Brown county, this state, five years, and in LaMoure county, North Dakota, twelve years, the last five of which he conducted a meat market. In May, 1895, he came to Buffalo and opened a market which he has successfully conducted. He is vitally interested in the growth of Buffalo, and has done much toward its commercial upbuilding. Being of a fraternal disposition, Mr. Woolley has allied himself with the Woodmen, the Workmen and the Yeomen. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Woolley was married September 11, 1878, to Maggie C. Cunningham, a successful school teacher, and they have had five children, Roy, Pearl, Edna, Lloyd and Wayne. Roy married Nancy Smith, who died March 6, 1906, at the age of twenty-five, leaving two children, Glen and Myrtle, who since the death of their mother have made their home with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Garrett F. Woolley, of Buffalo. Both are students in the Buffalo public schools. For his second wife he married Celia Wall. They live near Bend, Ore. Pearl died at the age of ten. Edna is the wife of Edson D. Washburn. He is a graduate of the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota and a successful young farmer of Otsego. They have two children, Ennid and Annis. Wayne is a graduate from the dental department of the University of Minnesota, graduating before he was twenty-one years of age, and is now a successful dentist of Fairmont, Minn. Mrs. Maggie C. (Cunningham) Woolley was the daughter of William I. W. and Lucina (Sheeks) Cunningham, and the granddaughter of Robert and Rachael Cunningham and George and Artemicia (Crawford) Sheeks. Robert and Rachael Cunningham were both natives of Boone county, Indiana, and were the parents of fifteen children. They reached Minnesota in 1856 and located in Olmsted county, four miles north of what is now the village of Eyota. One of these children was William I. W. Cunningham. He was admitted to the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal church, preached in many different places in the Northwest, and spent his declining years on a farm in Brown county. He and his wife Lucina were both natives of Boone county, Indiana. George Sheeks moved from Ohio to Indiana, and from there came overland to Minnesota, locating in Olmsted county. The town of Dover is laid out on his farm. The children in the Cunningham family were: Maggie, George, Charles, Frank, Willis, Mary, Artemicia, Lucina, John and Alvin. Mr. Cunningham died April 8, 1880. Mrs. Cunningham now resides at St. James, Minn.

**William Korb**, the energetic and capable manager for Osborne & McMillan, in their elevator at Buffalo, was born in Venango



county, Pennsylvania, May 10, 1861, son of Adam and Anna (Berry) Korb, who spent the span of their years in Pennsylvania. He attended the common schools of his native county and was there reared to manhood. In 1883 he came to Wright county and secured a farm in Buffalo township. In 1889 he became wheat buyer at the Buffalo Flour Mills for Thomas Hellier. In 1893 he took his present position. In this capacity he buys wheat extensively and sells large quantities of fuel. He is an honest, straightforward and successful citizen, a good man both for his company and for the community. Interested as he is in the welfare of the town, he has served as a member of the council. He is a member both of the Masonic order and of the Odd Fellows. Mr. Korb was married, December 21, 1888, to Harriet Varner, daughter of the distinguished pioneer, Henry Varner, mentioned elsewhere in this work. Mr. and Mrs. Korb have five children, Sadie M., Beulah F., Anna R., Elizabeth B. and Howard W., all at home. Beulah is a teacher.

**Peter Larson**, one of the early settlers who assisted in the general development of the county, was born in Warmland, Sweden, February 7, 1841, son of Lars Anderson. The other children were Lars, Andrew and Annie. In 1870, the brothers, Peter and Andrew, came to America, and in time reached St. Paul. From there, with three or four others, they walked to Duluth, where they secured employment on the railroad. In a few months, Peter Larson was made section foreman on the line between Duluth and Rice's Point. By industry and frugality, he was enabled in two years to send to the old country for his father and brothers and sisters. His mother had died many years before. Having thus provided for his family, Peter Larson shortly afterward married, and took 120 acres of timbered land in Marysville township. He erected a log cabin, and with a yoke of oxen started to prepare the land for farming. As the years passed he prospered, and from the wilderness he wrested a comfortable home and a profitable farm. About 1900 he retired and moved to the village of Buffalo, where he died December 19, 1905. He had been a prominent man in his vicinity, and his death was sincerely mourned. A devout man in religious faith, he had helped to build the old Lutheran church in Marysville township and had attended it for many years. During the last two decades of his life he attended worship at the Swedish Mission church, at Buffalo. He was interested in the development of the township, and his services as supervisor of Marysville were greatly valued by the citizens. Mr. Larson was married at Duluth, to Betsey Bloom, who was born in Sweden, November 21, 1851, and died in Minnesota January 21, 1877. She was the daughter of John Frederick Bloom, who came to Duluth from Sweden, and took up life in the woods. Mr. and Mrs. Larson had three children, Andrew G., Anna and Charles.





JOHN L. BURKLAND

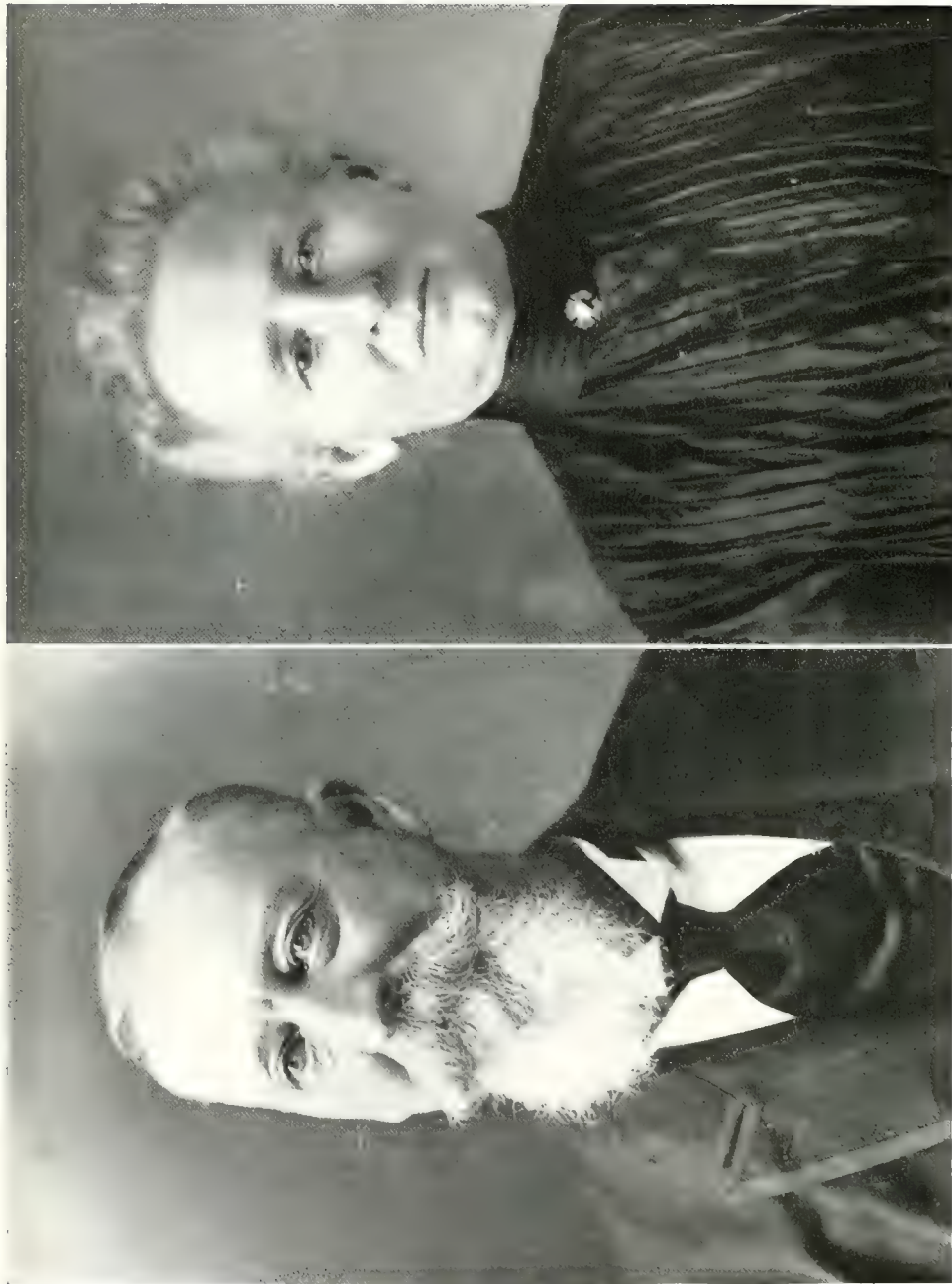
**Andrew G. Larson**, carpenter and contractor, now living in Buffalo, was born in Duluth, July 8, 1872, son of Peter and Betsey (Bloom) Larson. He came to Wright county with his parents, attended the district schools, was reared to manhood on the farm, and after his marriage continued to live thereon for six years. In 1898 they moved to Minneapolis, but after nearly a year there went to Kandiyohi county, where they spent about one and a half years farming. In 1902 they came to Buffalo, where they have since resided, and where he has followed his trade as a carpenter and contractor. He owns, in addition to his village property, eighty acres of land in Silver Creek township, which he rents. The family faith is that of the Swedish Mission church of Buffalo. Mr. Larson was married, April 8, 1893, to Mary Olson, of Kandiyohi county, daughter of Aaron Olson. They have six children, Rudolph, Florence, Winnifred, Dewey, Gustave and Francis.

**John L. Burkland**, whose establishment at Buffalo is one of the leading mercantile stores in the county, was born in Sweden, May 13, 1870, son of John and Anna (Swenson) Burkland. The other children in the family were Jennie and Hannah. John L. was reared in his native country, and there received his early education. In 1887 he came to America and located in Kansas, where he remained from April to November. Then he joined his uncle, Charles Burkland, in Missouri. In March, 1888, he moved to Ottumwa, Iowa, where his parents and sisters joined him. He took a business course in the Ottumwa Business College, after which he secured a position with the Globe Tea Company, with whom he remained until 1901. That year he came to Buffalo and bought out G. G. Friberg, a general merchant. The store was at that time a small one, and carried a stock valued at about \$3,000. The stock has now been increased to a value of \$25,000. By hard work, courtesy, absolute honesty and good commercial ability, he has built up a large trade. He enjoys the confidence of the people of the city and country, and is a successful man in every way. He carries a splendid stock of dry goods, groceries, hardware, household utensils, clothing, shoes, and in fact everything usually carried in a first-class department store. A believer in progress, he became one of the first members of the Buffalo Commercial Club. He has served on the school board for several terms. For the past twelve years he has been secretary of the Swedish Mission church, of which body he and his family are members. Mr. Burkland was married, June 12, 1900, to Frida Risberg, who was born in Sweden November 23, 1870. To Mr. and Mrs. Burkland six children have been born: Ruth, born August 12, 1901; Paul, born July 13, 1904; Evelyn and Evangeline, twins, born February 4, 1907; Carl, born July 17, 1908; and Gordon, born January 17, 1913.



**Henry T. Walker**, whose pioneer experiences in developing the Northwest have been many and varied, was born in Ontario, Canada, September 14, 1831, a son of William and Agnes (Cunningham) Walker, grandson of John and Mary (Stewart) Walker, the landowners, and a descendant of John Walker, Bishop of Derry. The family came from County Down in the Ulster region, in Ireland. William Walker, with his wife, Agnes, and one son, John, landed in Quebec, Canada, in 1819. His good qualities attracted the attention of a lumber dealer, who made him the manager of some extensive lumbering operations on the Ottawa and Sault Ste. Marie rivers, a capacity in which he was engaged for some thirty-four years. He died at the age of eighty-two and his wife at the age of eighty-one. Their children were: John (deceased), James, John, Henry T., William, Stewart, Robert (deceased), Robert, Mary Jane, Charity and Nancy. Henry T. Walker, now retired, was educated in Canada, there served seven years as apprentice and thoroughly mastered the trade of millwright. On September 15, 1855, he landed in St. Paul, prepared to win his way to success. As a carpenter he assisted in erecting many important buildings. He was prominently identified with the erecting of the earlier Washburn mills at Minneapolis. He helped to drive the first stake for the first Washburn mill, and assisted in the construction of the "A", "C" and Humbolt mills. He worked on the historic old Methodist Episcopal church on Jackson street, St. Paul. He also had charge of a carpenter crew on the St. Paul, Sioux City and Omaha Railroad. In 1878 he made an historic trip to the Black Hills in charge of an outfit for the purpose of delivering a mill at Deadwood. The mill had been shipped by rail to Breckenridge. Starting there with his crew and four yoke of oxen, Mr. Walker made his way to Moorehead, on through Bismarek, across the Missouri river at Fort Abercrombie, on to Crook City, and then to Deadwood. Mr. Walker put up the mill, operated it until the autumn, and then with his oxen returned to Meeker county. After his return he managed a flour mill and saw mill at Manannah, Minn. In 1882 he came to Buffalo and followed his trade of millwright and carpenter for several years. Mr. Walker was married January 1, 1858, to Betsy Ann Bryant, daughter of Ambrose and Narcissa (Merrill) Bryant, natives of Maine. Ambrose Bryant came to Minnesota in 1855 and in 1856 brought his family. His children were: Phoebe, Betsy Ann, Malissa, Helen, Flora, Oveldo, Adelbert, Alonzo, Clara, Freemont, Herbert and Eugene. Eugene died in the East. Mr. and Mrs. Walker have eight children, all living. They are: Agnes, Malissa, Charity, Narcissa, Adelaide, Ambrose, William and Stuart. Mrs. Walker died March 7, 1913, at the age of seventy-eight.





MR. AND MRS. GEORGE R. COVART

**Edward G. Baslough**, a Buffalo business man, was born in Mendota, Ill., April 1, 1875, son of Jesse and Sarah (Otto) Baslough. Jesse Baslough was born in Pennsylvania. He married Sarah Otto, a native of that state but of French ancestry. Their oldest child, Jennie, was born in Pennsylvania. From Pennsylvania they came to Illinois, and there the other children were born, Mary, Samuel, Harry, Minnie, Edward G., Theodore, Ida, Cora and Bertha. Jesse Baslough has always been a farmer. He is still living and is nearly ninety years of age. His wife died in 1900 at the age of sixty-four. Edward G. was reared on a farm in Illinois, and attended the graded and district schools. At the age of nineteen he went to Iowa, where he learned general wood-working, including the carpenter and carriage-making trades. From Iowa he went to Portland, Me., where he worked as a carpenter for eight years. Then he returned to Mendota, Ill., his home town, and with his brother, Harry, operated a livery stable for about four years. Subsequently he came to Minneapolis, and in a short time to Wright county. He secured a farm in Maple Lake township and engaged in stock raising. In 1909 he came to Buffalo and opened a livery stable. He has some splendid horses, and suitable vehicles, and his establishment enjoys a large patronage. In connection with his place, he operates an automobile livery, which also enjoys a liberal patronage.

**George R. Covart**, now deceased, for many years one of the most honored and respected residents of Wright county, was born in Sullivan county, New York, September 26, 1837, son of William and Anna Covart, natives of New York, and grandson of that Covart who fought in the Revolutionary war. The children in the family of William Covart were James, Joseph, William, Andrew, Harriett, Jane, Margaret and George R. George R. was the youngest in the family. He was educated in his native state and grew to manhood on the farm. As young men he and his brother, William, came to Wisconsin and took up farming. George was there married, and there lived until 1861, when he came to Wright county and located on 160 acres of land in Buffalo township, four miles north of Buffalo. A small building had been erected and the place partially improved. The progress of developing this farm was interrupted for a short time toward the close of the Civil war, when he was serving in Co. B, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. But when he returned he again took up his farm work. A man of much strength and ability, very industrious, and honest and straightforward in all his dealings, he achieved a large measure of success. As time passed he added to his original holdings, until he owned a fertile, well-developed tract of 316 acres, a valuable place still owned by the widow. Throughout the farm, Mr. Covart's thrift, energy and taste are everywhere apparent. Mr. Covart was a member of



the G. A. R. post at Monticello. He was for some years one of the supervisors of Buffalo township, and also a member of the school board of his district. He died March 6, 1908, and his death was sincerely mourned throughout the community. Mr. Covart was married in Wisconsin, July 3, 1857, to Eliza Leonard, born in New York, December 5, 1838, a daughter of Hiram and Elizabeth (Sprague) Leonard, also natives of New York. Eliza was the youngest in the family. The others were William, Warren, Walter, Webster, Mary, Olive and Jane, all now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Covart have had six children: George, born April 18, 1858; Adelaid, born October 4, 1859; Ella, born October 20, 1860, died September 26, 1899; Ernest, born June 29, 1862, died in 1912; Smith, born March 23, 1867; and Bertha, born November 3, 1868, died April 27, 1893. Mrs. Covart was the first president of the Women's Relief Corps and a charter member of the local Eastern Star. She is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church and of the Ladies' Aid Society of that body.

**William H. Covart**, a pioneer, was born in New York state, son of William Covart, a New York state farmer, and grandson of Andrew Covart, a soldier in the Revolutionary war. William H. Covart was reared in New York state, and was there educated. He married Isabella Clark, who was born in Scotland and brought to this country by her parents when she was two years old. In 1857 the family, at that time consisting of William H. Covart, his wife, and two children, Sylvester J. and William, left New York state and located in Dodge county, Wisconsin. There, another child, Annie B., was born. About 1860 the family came to Wright county and located on 160 acres of land in Monticello township, on Monticello prairie, two miles south of the village of Monticello. There their youngest child, Florence, was born. In a few years they moved to the village, bought a hotel, remodeled it, and gave it the name of the Covart House. A year later it burned. Mr. Covart then retired and resided in Monticello, until he died in 1891, at the age of sixty-eight. Mrs. Covart died in 1913, at the age of eighty-five. Sylvester J. died in Monticello at about nineteen years of age. Florence died in Monticello township at three years of age.

**William Covart**, merchant, financier and man of affairs, was born in Sullivan county, New York, March 11, 1854, son of William H. and Isabella (Clark) Covart. In 1857 he was taken by his parents to Dodge county, Wisconsin, and about 1860 he was brought to Monticello township. He was educated in the district school, and early in life took up farming as an occupation. Since he was fourteen the speculative feature of agricultural operation has appealed strongly to him, and while he has never farmed extensively, he has owned many farms in succession, and has prospered exceedingly by every exchange that he has made. In

1893 he engaged with a partner in the hardware business at Buffalo, under the firm name of Covart & Wickly. The same firm also has extensive sawmill and lumber interests in Carleton county, Minnesota, not far from Duluth. Mr. Covart was married, October 22, 1896, to Sarah Boerner, and they have two children, Helen and Marion. Both are students of the Buffalo High School.

**Aaron F. Ames**, who, after a life filled with varied experiences, is now living in retirement in Buffalo, was born in Chittenden county, Vermont, December 30, 1827, son of William and Polly (Brownell) Ames. William Ames was born and reared in Vermont and there spent a number of years in farming. After coming west he located in Boone county, Illinois, and kept a stage-line tavern at Amesville, now known as Garden Prairie. At one time General Winfield Scott was a guest at the hotel, and the two men became fast friends. William Ames had twelve children, as follows: Eliza, Caroline, Adaline, Harriett, Adelia, Emily, Sereno, George, Alson, William, Aaron F. and Eben. Of this family, George was the first to come to Minnesota. He first secured twenty acres near the present site of the Hennepin county courthouse in Minneapolis. He considered the tract of little value, and abandoned it to locate in Rockford township, in Wright county. Aaron F. Ames received his early education in Illinois. In May, 1852, before the gold craze of 1849 had subsided, he started out in an ox team for California, accompanied by his brothers, Alson and Eben, and by another man named J. R. Ames, but not a relative. It was the intention of the party to reach Sacramento, but in September it was decided to stop at the Yaba river, ninety miles east of that city. Aaron F. at first secured work at \$5.00 a day, but soon discovered that it took more than that to live, so he went prospecting. For three years he followed mining in various places, and then started home, making the trip by way of New Mexico, on the line of the pony express from Sacramento to St. Cloud. He farmed for a while in Garden Prairie, Ill., and then went to McGregor, Iowa. At the outbreak of the Civil war, he recruited Co. L, Sixth Iowa Cavalry, and was mustered in as its captain, at Davenport. He served two years and nine months, and saw much active service on the Northwestern frontier against the Indians. In one engagement he was thrown from his horse, causing a rupture from which he has never fully recovered. He was mustered out at Sioux City, and returned to his home in Illinois, but shortly afterward he again came to McGregor and again engaged in the mercantile business. From McGregor he went to Cresco, Iowa. From there, in 1872, he came to Wright county and located on a place of 130 acres, one half mile north of the village of Rockford. This was wild land, and no improvements had been made thereon. Mr. Ames

broke the land, erected modern buildings and successfully farmed until 1901, when he retired and moved to Buffalo. He is a member of the G. A. R. Post, and while in the township served as town clerk and town assessor. The family faith is that of the Episcopal church. Mr. Ames was married at McGregor, Iowa, in 1866, to Sarah Forsythe, born in Waddington, N. Y., May 29, 1843, daughter of John and Mary (Mathews) Forsythe. Mr. and Mrs. Ames have four children. Rose and Frank were born in Iowa, and Polly and Edith in Minnesota. Rose lives in Buffalo. Frank died in 1876. Polly is now Mrs. Charles W. Lynd, of Medicine Lake, Mont. They have seven children, Edith, Ames, Milo, Lloyd, Roy, Vernon and Cleon. Edith is now Mrs. Irvin L. O'Meara, of Hennepin county, Minnesota. They have three children, Irvin, Edna and Lois. John Forsythe was a tailor by trade. He was born in Scotland, came to New York at the age of sixteen, and married Mary Mathews, who was born in Montreal, Canada, of Scottish parents. From New York they went to Wisconsin, and lived for a time near Watertown. Later they went to McGregor, Iowa, where they spent the remainder of their lives. John Forsythe enlisted at the first call for three months' men, and served throughout the Civil war. His son, William, served in the Sixth Wisconsin Cavalry, his son Robert in the First Wisconsin Cavalry, and his son George in the Sixth Wisconsin Infantry. The other children were: Samuel, James, Eben, Margaret, Jane, Sarah and Emma.

**Robert Bredt**, a successful farmer of Buffalo township, was born in Cologne-on-the-Rhine, Germany, January 23, 1860, son of Titus and Agnes (Muller) Bredt. Titus Bredt was a man of considerable importance in his native city. A sugar refiner who had attained success in life, he was president of the local court of trade, and occupied other positions of trust and responsibility. He was born January 28, 1813, and died June 30, 1885. His wife was born April 19, 1819, and died November 1, 1895. In their family there were nine children: Agnes, Titus, Marie, Henrietta, Caroline, Emil, Rudolph, Helena and Robert. Of this family, Robert, the subject of this mention, was the only one who came to the United States. He had received a good education, had served the usual term in the army, and had worked in his father's office. But desiring wider opportunities, he came to the United States in 1885, and upon reaching Wright county secured employment at Maple Lake with Herman Blume, an early settler, whose wife was Matilda Genbeck. On December 27, 1886, Mr. Bredt married their daughter, Matilda Helen. They lived on the home place for several years and to them were born four children, Titus Herman, George Paul and Maria Matilda and Helen Agnes, twins. Titus Herman was born November 16, 1887, married Dorothy Reynolds, and lives on his father's farm in Buffalo



ROBERT BRETT AND FAMILY





township. George Paul was born July 10, 1890, married Elizabeth Wegen, and lives in Minneapolis. The twins were born June 26, 1892. Maria Matilda married Henry Arnold. They live in Monticello township, and have four children: Evan, Helen, Clyde and Viola. Helen Agnes lives at home. Mrs. Matilda (Blume) Bredt was born in St. Louis, Mo., November 10, 1868, and died February 2, 1900. On June 5, 1901, Mr. Bredt married Anna Baker, born in Wright county, April 25, 1876, daughter of Joseph and Christina (Elsenpeter) Baker, the pioneers. She has proven an able helpmate through all their married life, and has borne her husband two sons, Robert Rudolph, born March 23, 1904, and Carl Frederick, January 22, 1909. In 1896, Mr. Bredt purchased a farm of 161 acres in section 5, Buffalo township, and there successfully farmed until June 15, 1914, when he and his family moved to the village of Buffalo. The farm is now occupied and operated by the son, Titus Herman Bredt.

**Norman Dyer** is a name that is held in loving respect and regard by all the early settlers in the vicinity of Buffalo. One of Nature's own noblemen, he was endowed with a kindly, generous disposition, and without his philanthropy many of the pioneers would have failed and left the county. The world is truly the better for his having lived in it, and his memory will be cherished by the sons and grandsons of those whom he befriended. Norman Dyer was born in Trumbull county, Ohio, February 12, 1824, and was there reared and educated. In 1859 he and his good wife came to Wright county and settled on a farm. The country was then wild. They made a small clearing, erected a log cabin, and established their home in the wilderness. Gradually the land was cleared and developed, suitable buildings were erected, and they were soon numbered as among the most prosperous people in the community. From the very first they were noted for their hospitality and liberality. No one ever went hungry from their door, and many a side of bacon or beef, many a pound of butter and tea, or sack of corn or wheat were sent to some less fortunate settler. Throughout his long life, Mr. Dyer delighted in aiding the neighbors. He extended credit to those who had recently arrived, and especially during the grasshopper ravages did he make it possible for many of the pioneers to stay here, by giving some work, by standing good for their accounts at the stores, and by furnishing them with seed. Aside from such material aid, he was always ready with a word of cheer and encouragement, and no one ever met him without feeling the better for having met him. He served in a number of offices, but his greatest pride was in his farm, and he did not seek political life. He died April 15, 1890, ripe in good deeds, wisdom and honor, and the influence of his noble nature still remains. His wife, who ably seconded him in all his efforts,

was Keziah Leeper, to whom he was married in La Grange county, Indiana, April 14, 1851. She was born in that county, August 12, 1830, and died April 21, 1879.

**George W. Burrows**, Buffalo lumberman, now deceased, had a most important part in the upbuilding of the commercial prosperity, and in dying left the community the rich heritage of an unsullied name. He was born at Wyocena, Columbia county, Wisconsin, June 9, 1855, son of Henry D. and Emily H. (Britt) Burrows. This worthy couple were born in New York state and were there married, in 1853. Shortly afterward they came west and settled in Wyocena, Columbia county, where they secured 280 acres of land. Henry D. Burrows became a prominent man, served on the official board of his township, and was a village officer of Wyocena. He died in Buffalo, Minn., in 1900, at the age of sixty-eight. His wife is still living in Buffalo, having attained the good old age of eighty-two years. In the family there were four children, George W., Homer, John and Edith (deceased). George W. Burrows was educated in the schools of his native county, and devoted his early life to farming. He began his commercial career in 1880 by locating in Wadena, Minn., where for some two or three years he devoted his attention to grain buying. Mr. Burrows was married December 11, 1883, to Lillian M. Morrison, at Wadena, Minn. Mrs. Burrows is the daughter of D. R. Morrison, one of Minnesota's pioneer settlers, who came from New York state and located near Owatonna, Minn., in the early fifties. He was a veteran of the Civil war, and a prominent man in his township. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Burrows resided in Wyocena, Wis., for three years. In the fall of 1886, they came to Buffalo, and in partnership with George C. Carpenter, Mr. Burrows established the Burrows & Carpenter Lumber Company. They received the first two car loads of freight shipped into Buffalo, over the Sault Ste. Marie, and still retain as a memento, way freight bills Nos. 1 and 2. In 1896, the firm dissolved partnership, Mr. Carpenter going into politics and becoming state senator, and Mr. Burrows remaining as sole proprietor. He established and carried on a large and successful business, having lumber interests not only in Buffalo, but also in Wisconsin for over twenty years. Mr. and Mrs. Burrows have two children, Myrtle Maude and Byron Channe. Their daughter, Miss Burrows, is a graduate of the Johnson Conservatory of Music at Minneapolis, and is an accomplished musician. She has been a very successful teacher for the past three years. Byron C. is one of the leading young business men of Buffalo. He was manager of his father's lumber business two years previous to his death, and has since conducted it in a most able manner. After passing through the graded schools, he attended the Buffalo High School one year and St. John's Univer-

sity, at Collegeville, this state, one year. September 17, 1913, he married Marie Remshardt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Remshardt, of Red Wing, Minn. Mr. Burrows is a member of Buffalo Lodge No. 141, I. O. O. F. Mr. and Mrs. George Burrows occupied a position of much trust and respect. Mrs. Burrows has served on the board of education for the past six years, having the honor of being elected president of that organization five years in succession. She was also president of the Ladies' Historical Club for three years, and a member of the Library Board. Mr. Burrows was leader of the Buffalo Cornet band for a number of years, and also took an active part in many home talent entertainments. Standing as he did in the community, it was natural that he should be called to serve three years as city recorder and two years as mayor. It was through his untiring efforts that the electric light plant was installed during his administration. His residence in Buffalo is one of the most sightly and best located homes in the city. Mr. Burrows was a great lover of music, of his home life, and of Buffalo. He died May 19, 1914, and his death was sincerely mourned.

**Swan E. Bratt**, a prosperous contractor and carpenter of Buffalo, was born in Sweden, June 3, 1862, a son of Erick Erickson and Christina Larson, who spent the span of their years in the old country. Erick Erickson was a builder, and erected many of the dwellings in his native town. He was twice married. By his first wife he had two children, Erick and Peter, and by his second wife, three children, Carrie, Stena and Swan E. Swan E. was the only one of the family to come to America. He was reared in his native land, thoroughly learned the building trades from his father, and in 1886 came to Buffalo, where he has since resided. Times were hard and at first it was almost impossible for him to get work in the building line. In fact, it was nearly two years before he got started. But after he secured his first work, his rise was rapid. He is a thorough master of the building trades, being a general mechanic, woodworker and finisher. When he takes a contract for a house he starts with a hole in the ground, and turns the house over to the owner ready for occupancy. He has erected some of the best buildings in Buffalo and hundreds of more throughout the county. The buildings occupied by the Nelson hardware store, the Sternberg general store, the Rettke confectionery and jewelry store, the Ellis hardware store, the Fryburg general store, the Berkland store and the Smidt store all stand as monuments to his building ability and fidelity. He did the carpenter work on the postoffice building at Buffalo and erected the Montrose Farmers' Co-Operative Store. He erected and at one time owned the Lamson, Lingberg, Schmidt and Almes residences. Among other dwellings built by him may be mentioned those of the Messrs. Saiders,



Dahlstrom, Kirkpatrick, Adams, Nelson, Frisk, Vickstrum, Berquist, Sudines, Rettke, Templeans, Norman, Lingstrum, Grant, Peterson, Anderson, Swenson, Dickson, Illstrup, Westphal, Sunt, A. Nordberg, A. G. Nordberg, McCullough and many others. The Methodist and Presbyterian parsonages and the Free Mission Church, of Buffalo, are also his work. Mr. Bratt was married in 1893 to Mary Olson, born in Sweden, March 12, 1861, daughter of Olof and Gertrude (Larson) Olson. Mr. and Mrs. Bratt have five children, Erick Hiram (deceased), Walter, Harold, Clarence and Leonard. Olof Olson died in Sweden, leaving a widow and three children, Walberg, Christine and Mary. The widow married John Erickson, who brought the family to Buffalo in 1868. He died here, but she is still living at the good old age of eighty-four, and lives with Mr. Bratt. The family are members of Swedish Mission Church, of which Mr. Bratt is one of the trustees. Mr. Bratt has a very beautiful home, which he built in 1902, with all modern conveniences, and a large sloping lawn with a fine evergreen hedge, overlooking Buffalo Lake.

**John H. Beutner**, proprietor of the Owl Drug Store at Buffalo, is one of the leading business men of the city. His selection of this place as a location showed his strong faith in its future, and that faith has been more than justified. John Beutner was born in Winona, Minn., February 27, 1878, son of Peter and Bertha (Klyce) Beutner. Peter Beutner was by trade a painter and decorator. He was born in Wisconsin, and there married Bertha Klyce, a native of the same state. In the seventies they located in Winona, where he died in 1914 at the age of fifty-nine years, and where she still resides. The children in the family were: John, Henry, Romey, Etta, Philip, Lillian and Herbert. John, the oldest of this family, was educated in the graded and high schools of Winona. After graduating from the latter institution, he entered the drug store of J. W. Lauer, in that city, and worked for three years. Then he entered the School of Pharmacy in Minneapolis, graduating in 1896. With this preparation, he returned to Winona and entered the employ of Frank Pittman, wholesale chemist. Four years later he went to Minneapolis, and for five years was in the prescription department of T. K. Gray & Co., wholesale and retail druggists. During all of these years he kept in mind his resolve to enter in business for himself, and at last the opportunity was presented. He had heard much of Wright county, and decided that Buffalo was a coming business center. Accordingly he came here in 1907 and opened a drug store which he named "The Owl." His success was assured from the very start. His stock is large and well-selected, and consists of drugs, chemicals and medicines of the best and purest nature, stationery, cigars, toilet articles, temperance drinks and novelties. He is a registered pharmacist, and prescriptions are





FRANK BANNOCHIE

compounded with the greatest care and accuracy. The store is housed in a sightly, sanitary, light and airy structure, most admirably adapted to its purpose. The neat soda fountain does a large business. Aside from being skilled in his profession and a good business man, Mr. Beutner is a most pleasant and affable gentleman, and a general favorite among his friends. He is one of those men who have "made good," and his success is well deserved. Mr. Beutner is a member of the I. O. O. F., the M. W. A. and the Buffalo Commercial Club. Mr. Beutner was married September 20, 1900, to Mamie Myrtle Mulford, of Winona, daughter of Charles and Emma Colvin. There are three children in the family, Harry, Rayburn and Marjorie. Mrs. Beutner is a member of the Buffalo Lodge of Rebekahs. Her father, Charles Colvin, is a druggist in Portland, Ore.

**Frank Bannochie**, the popular and genial proprietor of the Lake Pulaski House, on the shores of beautiful Lake Pulaski, was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, March 19, 1863, son of Alexander and Agnes (Smith) Bannochie. Alexander Bannochie was a cattle buyer in Scotland. He was the father of eight children, Frank, Alexander, Jr., William, Agnes, Elizabeth, Alice, Nellie and Mary. Frank Bannochie was reared in his native land, and there received a good education and a good business training. His four years apprenticeship was spent in a wholesale drygoods house in Aberdeen, Scotland. In 1882 he came to America, having been sent to Providence, R. I., as a representative of a Scottish drygoods syndicate. A year later he engaged with a similar concern in Buffalo, N. Y., and still another year later he became buyer for the John Taylor Dry Goods Company, Kansas City, Mo. In 1885 he returned to the land of his birth, and there married Helen Finley Thompson, a native of Scotland, daughter of James and Hannah (Kennedy) Thompson. Then he returned to Providence, R. I., and was three months with the Scotch house of David Harley, dealer in drygoods. Then for two years and three months he was with William Donaldson, of the Glass block, Minneapolis. Subsequently, after two years with M. B. Faulconer, of Omaha, Neb., he was with the Minneapolis Dry Goods Company until 1893, having entire charge of their furniture department. Then for six years he was head decorator and draper for Field, Slick & Co., of St. Paul. April 6, 1900, he came to Lake Pulaski and purchased Ween Olson's summer home and four and a half acres of land for the purpose of creating an ideal summer resort. Bannochie's resort is one of the most popular in the Northwest. Beautifully situated on the banks of a crystal lake, in the midst of a spreading grove, with the best of roads stretching in every direction, the place has advantages which keep it crowded with guests throughout the summer season, and also brings them at other seasons of the year. The main building



is the Pulaski House, 25 by 42 feet, with a 22-foot addition, fitted in bungalow style. The rooms are all cool and comfortable and well furnished, while the dining room is constantly swept by the cool and refreshing air from the lake. Aside from the main hotel there are seven comfortable cottages where guests are accommodated. There is also a houseboat, fifteen rowboats, a large launch, several sailboats, and in the winter some excellent iceboats. The large wharf gives opportunity for diving and other aquatic feats, while the sandy beach adds greatly to the enjoyment of bathing. The large dancing pavilion has a stage for the giving of small plays and vaudeville entertainment, and the management furnishes a five-piece orchestra for the dances. A large steel fireproof vault provides shelter for automobiles, and a bowling alley provides indoor athletic recreation. The food served at the place is excellent, the vegetables being raised on the place, and the milk being obtained from the owner's private dairy. An electric light plant makes it possible to furnish illumination at all hours desired, and the flowing well furnishes as good water as can be found in the state. The lake is probably as clear a one as any in Minnesota. It has a sandy bottom, and being fed entirely by springs, the water is at all times wholesome and sparkling. It has been extensively stocked with game fish; no obnoxious fish are found here, and as Mr. Bannochie has been made special game warden, he is enabled to prevent violations of the law in the way of the destruction of the fish out of season. The lake has a beautiful shore line of seven miles; it is about two and a quarter miles across, and in the deepest place about 300 feet deep. It also connects with Little Pulaski lake, which covers about eighty acres. A lover of animals, Mr. Bannochie is an extensive breeder and importer of pure-blooded Scotch collie dogs, and has acted as judge at many bench shows. An affable, pleasant gentleman, and a believer in good-fellowship, Mr. Bannochie is a charter member of the Maccabees at St. Paul, and a member of the Elks at St. Cloud, as well as several fraternal insurance orders. Mr. Bannochie and his wife have had four children. Two are dead. James Norville lives in St. Paul. He married Beronica Zahler, of St. Michael, and has a daughter, Helen. Helen, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bannochie's only living daughter, is the wife of Joseph Metzgar, of St. Paul.

**John Julius Johnson**, owner and proprietor of the Buffalo Flour Mills, Buffalo, was born in Carver county, March 11, 1871, son of John Henry and Mary (Bankson) Johnson, natives of Sweden. John Henry Johnson was a skilled workman, a millwright by trade, and a general mechanic of much ability. He came to America at about the age of twenty, and secured varied employments. For a time he operated a sawmill at Muskegon, Mich. From there he came to Carver county, Minnesota, where

he operated a sawmill for many years. In the meantime he erected many flour mills, including those at Le Sueur, Belleplaine, Cokato, Delano, Paynesville and Buffalo, in Minnesota, and Calamine, in Wisconsin. John Julius Johnson was educated at Belleplaine, in Carver county, this state, and early took up the milling business with his father on the home farm. This mill was twice burned, but was each time rebuilt. In 1895, when his father, John Henry, erected the mill at Buffalo, John Julius Johnson and a partner, August Meline, took charge of the mill and operated it until 1903, when Mr. Johnson bought out his partner and has since continued in business alone. He has made the Buffalo Flour Mills widely known for the excellence of their product. The mill itself is a substantial structure 36 by 52 feet, three stories high with a basement. The boiler and engine room is 36 by 36 feet. The warehouse is 30 by 30 feet, one story with a basement. The establishment has a capacity of about ninety barrels daily. The principal product is the "White Lily Brand" flour, but the mill also turns out rye and graham flour and breakfast food. The venture has been a successful one in every particular, and Mr. Johnson is one of the leading men in the community. Mr. Johnson married Hannah Jackson, of Cokato, daughter of Herman Jackson, an old settler of Wright county. Their children are: Raymond C., Edgar J. (died at four years of age), Harold, Julius Willard, Lloyd Emerson and Alvina, all at home. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Johnson is a member of the Woodmen.

**Harry Ludwig Jensen**, an estimable citizen of Wright county, now living a retired life in Buffalo, was born in Sweden, April 1, 1845, son of John and Sophia (Nicholas) Jensen, who spent the span of their years in the old country. John Jensen was a man of high standing in his community, being a clergyman of the Lutheran faith. In the family there were four children, Ernest, Hilda, Esther and Harry Ludwig. Harry Ludwig was the oldest of this family. He was reared in Sweden, and in 1868 came to Cook county, Illinois, and took up farming. In 1883 he and his wife came to Wright county and secured 160 acres of land in Rockford township. There he farmed until 1904, when he retired and moved to Buffalo, where he still carries on farming on a small scale. The son of a pastor, it is natural that he should have taken an active part in the Lutheran church; and being a man of ability, the people have availed themselves of his services as supervisor of Rockford township and as clerk of the school board of his district. Mr. Jensen was married in Cook county, Illinois, July 2, 1879, to Sarah Bennett, born in Wisconsin, the daughter of Caleb Bennett. She died in March, 1889, at the age of forty two, leaving two children, Lilly and Leah. Esther and Ella May are dead. Mr. Jensen married the second time in October, 1889,

to Christina Piersen, a native of Sweden, and by this marriage there are two children, Ernest and Elmer.

**Arthur J. Kelly, D. D. S.**, Buffalo, is one of the rising young professional men of Minnesota, and comes of one of the early pioneer families of the southern part of the state. He was born in Yucatan township, Houston county, December 13, 1889, on the farm of his father, and the homestead of his grandfather. The founder of the family in America was James Kelly, Sr. He was born in Scotland, but was of Scotch-Irish descent. His wife, Charlotte Carson, was a native of Scotland, a descendant of one of the substantial lowland families. The young couple came to America and took up their home in what was then the little hamlet of Chatfield, lying on the border between Olmsted and Fillmore counties. Here James Kelly, Sr., followed his trade as a carpenter, erecting many of the pioneer homes in that village. From Chatfield they moved to Yucatan township, in Houston county, and took a homestead. They built a log cabin, and experienced all the privations of pioneer life. The nearest neighbors were miles away, provisions were scarce and the country wild. The ground had to be broken and the wilderness subdued. But with the years they prospered and became leading and substantial citizens. Slightly buildings replaced the old log cabin, and the farm was as well developed as any in the neighborhood. James Kelly, who was designed to serve an important part in the political life of southeastern Minnesota, was born in Chatfield. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. He early won the confidence of his community by his honesty and ability, and he was elected to numerous school and township offices. In the fall of 1888 he was persuaded to run for a seat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature. He was elected, and in January, 1889, took his seat. In the legislature he was a conspicuous figure. He easily won friends, and early in the session it was apparent that he was a force to be reckoned with. He served on important committees, and did most efficient work for his constituents and for the state. In 1890 his district elected him to a seat in the state senate, and here his influence and importance increased. After the expiration of his term of office he retired to the farm, where he still lives. He married Ellen Kelly, a native of Houston county, daughter of John and Mary (Conley) Kelly. Their children are: Frances M., Arthur J., Charlotte I., Joseph J. and Mary V. Arthur J. Kelly was the second in the family. He was reared on the home farm, and acquired a good education in the district schools. His parents encouraged him in his determination to enter upon a professional career, and with this purpose in view he entered St. Thomas College, at St. Paul, where he made an excellent record. In 1909 he entered the dental



college of the University of Minnesota, from which he was graduated in 1912. While at college he was a member of the Delta Sigma Delta. Upon obtaining his degree he came to Buffalo, where he opened his offices. His success was assured from the start. A thorough master of his profession, and a pleasant and affable gentleman, he makes friends of all with whom he comes in contact, and his rapidly increasing practice embraces not only the village and its environs, but also the countryside for many miles in every direction. He has taken his part in the life of the community, has won the esteem and companionship of the leading men of the county, and is in every way a desirable citizen. His offices contain the most modern appliances, and are beautifully furnished as well as completely equipped.

Dr. Kelly was married April 15, 1915, to Margaret D. Hill, who was born in Winnebago, Wis., June 1, 1890, was brought to Minneapolis in August, 1890, attended the graded schools, graduated from the East High school in 1909, and from the College of Science, Literature and Arts, University of Minnesota, in 1913. Her father, George E. Hill, was born in Michigan in 1851 of Welsh ancestry and was a mechanical engineer. He was married in Oshkosh, Wis., in 1878, came to Minneapolis in 1890, and died in 1898. His wife, Mary (Neary) Hill, was born in Neenah, Wis., in 1860, and now makes her home in Minneapolis.

**Austin Knight**, for many years a well-known figure in Wright county life, was born in Canada, May 24, 1839, and died at Minnehaha in 1903. He received his education in Canada, and in 1856 came to the United States with his brother John. They located near Minneapolis and engaged in teaming. Later Austin Knight was a stage driver, carrying mail and passengers, in succeeding years, from Minneapolis to Wayzetta, from Wayzetta to Watertown, and from Delano to Rockford. The roads were bad, four horses were often required to make a short trip, and sometimes horses and stage were piled together in some swampy hole, from which they were with difficulty rescued. It was about 1867 when Mr. Knight first settled in Wright county, coming from Wayzetta and taking up his residence in Rockford. While living in Rockford he operated a sawmill at Howard Lake. In 18— he came to Buffalo, and with his brother-in-law, Orlando Bushnell, operated a sawmill near the site of the present creamery. A stave department was added, and Richard Knight became a partner. About a year later, Austin Knight and Orlando Bushnell sold out, and Austin Knight opened a livery stable at Howard Lake. A year and a half afterward, however, he returned to Buffalo and purchased the Winsor Hotel and livery barn. Several years later he sold the hotel but kept the stables. Subsequently, however, he sold the stables and retired. During all these years he had been handicapped by poor health. On August



20, 1862, he had enlisted in Company D, 9th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and had served until mustered out as a corporal, June 9, 1865, and in this service he contracted disabilities that made him more or less of an invalid all his days. In his latter years his health became more and more feeble, and he died in the hospital of the Soldiers' Home at Minnehaha Falls. Mr. Knight was married July 9, 1866, to Elizabeth Bushnell, born in Beaverton, Ill., September 30, 1839, daughter of Orlando and Abigail (Coe) Bushnell. Five children blessed their union: Helen, now Mrs. W. D. Secombe, of Minneapolis; Archie A.; Corinne E., of Minneapolis; Sarah, now of Minneapolis, and formerly for seven years a teacher at Manila, in the Philippines; and John Harold. Mrs. Knight is a charming lady of many accomplishments, and is prominent in church, society and charitable work. Her beautiful home overlooking Buffalo lake is noted for its hospitality and good cheer.

**Orlando H. Bushnell**, who was for many years connected with the official life of Wright county, was born in Illinois, November 27, 1844, son of Orlando and Abigail (Coe) Bushnell, who were born, reared and married in Hartland, Conn., then lived successively in New York and Ohio, and ended their days in Illinois. They were pioneers in Illinois, and often traveled to Chicago, then a small town fifty miles away, after supplies. Orlando H. came to Rockford in the spring of 1859 and engaged in farming and lumbering. In 1862 he enlisted in Company B, 6th Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until mustered out, August 19, 1865. He then returned to Rockford, and lived there until 1872, when he located in Buffalo, where he was engaged in the lumber, sawmill and stave business, with Austin and Richard Knight. He was prominent in public life and served as county commissioner, as well as assisting his township in the offices of town treasurer and town assessor, and his village as mayor. Always active in matters for improvement of the community, a friend to all in need, he was trusted and esteemed by all who knew him. In 1898 he moved to Utah, where he engaged in the lumber business and operated a small fruit farm. From there, in 1903, he went to Idaho, where he bought a ranch and planted an orchard. A few years later he moved to Eagle, Idaho, where he died January 14, 1911. Mr. Bushnell was married in 1872 to Ella Ackley, daughter of Amassa Ackley, who platted the village of Buffalo. She died in November, 1912. They had two daughters, Mary and Elizabeth. Mary is the wife of Charles Judson, of Eagle, Idaho. Elizabeth also resides in Eagle, Idaho.

**Frank B. Lamson**, for many years a prominent figure in the official life of Wright county, was born at Mt. Carmel, Conn., October 14, 1867, son of Levi and Adelaide (Bailey) Lamson, of Colonial ancestry, and of Scotch, English and Dutch extraction. Levi Lamson was a department foreman of the Lamson & Sessions



FRANK B. LAMSON



Bolt Company, of Mt. Carmel, Conn. He remained in the East until 1886, when he came to Minnesota and located in Minneapolis, where he still resides. Frank B. Lamson was left motherless in infancy, and was reared by his maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred A. Bailey, with whom he moved to Sherwood, in Calumet county, Wisconsin, at the age of two years. There he saw something of pioneer life on a farm. When he was thirteen years old he started out for himself by finding a place where he could work for his board while attending the Appleton (Wis.) high school. At the age of seventeen he left school to assume the support of his grandparents. They removed to Dassel, in Meeker county, where Mr. Lamson became a teacher, a profession he subsequently followed in Meeker, McLeod, Chisago and Wright counties. In 1891 he became principal of the schools at Cokato, in this county. In 1889 he purchased the Cokato "Observer," which he edited and published for two years. While in Cokato he served as village recorder and as justice of the peace. In 1892 he was nominated by the Republican party as candidate for county auditor, was elected by a plurality of 169 votes, and in 1894 was reelected by a plurality of 1,563 votes. In September, 1897, he established the Buffalo "Standard," a weekly publication. The first number was issued September 8, 1897. The last issue was published April 25, 1900. Then it was sold to H. S. Saylor, and merged with the Buffalo "Journal." In the fall of 1896 Mr. Lamson took an active part in the political fight in the Sixth Congressional district between Page Morris, Republican, and Charles A. Towne, Democrat. In recognition of his services he was appointed postmaster at Buffalo, a position he filled from October 4, 1897, to July 1, 1910. In the campaign of 1910, Mr. Lamson was one of the speakers in the field for the Minnesota Anti-Saloon League, and as such delivered addresses in support of the campaign of Rudolph Lee (son of William E. Lee, candidate for governor in 1914) for state senator from the district comprising Todd, Wadena and Hubbard counties. Mr. Lamson also campaigned in Wright county, and did field work in Houston and Washington counties. At the conclusion of the campaign he accepted the secretaryship of the Minnesota Progressive Republican League, and had charge of the work leading up to the first convention held in this state for the purpose of organizing the progressive element in the Republican party. He represented the organization before the legislature of 1911, and resigned at the close of the session. In July, 1911, he accepted the position of deputy auditor of Wright county. He is also a member of the Buffalo board of education. The Presbyterian church claims his religious alliance, and for some years he was a member of the official board of that organization. Fraternally he is also active, and has passed through the chairs in local lodges of the



Odd Fellows and the United Workmen, namely, Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F., and Buffalo Lodge, No. 184, A. O. U. W. Mr. Lamson is the compiler of the Lamson Geneology, covering the period from 1635 to 1908. In preparing this work, Mr. Lamson visited many historic points in New England, including the place of his birth in Connecticut. Mr. Lamson was married, January 1, 1890, to Anna S. Nordine, born in the Province of Wermland, Sweden, April 24, 1867, daughter of Andrew and Agnes (Lind) Nordine, who brought her to America as an infant, and located first at Carver, in Carver county, Minnesota, and later in Dassel, in Meeker County, Minnesota, where her mother still resides, her father having passed away some years ago. Mrs. Lamson is an artist of more than usual ability. Mr. and Mrs. Lamson have three children: Frank Vernon, born June 28, 1899; Ruth Marion, born March 24, 1906; and Edmond Herbert, born November 21, 1908.

**Henry Varner**, pioneer, a retired farmer now residing in Buffalo, was born in Westmoreland county, Pennsylvania, November 16, 1831, a son of John and Mary (Bitts) Varner, both natives of Pennsylvania, where they spent the span of their years as farmers. The Varner family in Pennsylvania dates back to the Revolutionary war, and the direct ancestors at one time carried on farming operations on the present site of Oil City. John and Mary Varner had twelve children: Solomon, Levi, Jacob, Daniel, William, Henry, John, Jr., David, Susan, Polly, Katie and Lafayette. Of these, Solomon, Jacob, Henry, John, Jr., and Lafayette came to Wright county. The first to come were Henry and Jacob. They arrived in 1856. From St. Paul they walked to Monticello, where they erected a house and resided a year. In 1858 they each secured a homestead of 160 acres in Buffalo township. The land was wild, and no roads led past their claims. They erected a shack of poles, and started to prepare the land for farming. As time passed they purchased a yoke of oxen from traders passing on the old Red River trail. This is said to have been the first pair of oxen in the township. The two brothers lived alone until 1860, when Henry, on one of his frequent trips to Pennsylvania, married, and thus secured a mistress for his home. Henry Varner did not leave his claim during the Indian scare, but remained to defend his place. No Indians appeared. During the early years of their married life Henry Varner and his wife spent part of their time farming in the oil regions of Pennsylvania, alternating their work there with visits to the claim in Buffalo. In 1866 they located permanently on their claim and there resided forty-five years. He erected good buildings, made a success of farming, and did considerable dealing in real estate. For thirty years he operated a threshing machine. The respect in which he was held by his fellow citizens is shown by the

fact that he served a number of years as chairman of the town board. In the late nineties he retired and moved to the village of Buffalo. Henry Varner, when a young man, owned and operated two coal mines in Pennsylvania. He sold one before coming to Minnesota and disposed of the other afterwards. He was married October 3, 1860, to Anna Korb, born in Venango county, Pennsylvania, February 20, 1841, daughter of Adam and Mary Korb, natives of Germany. Adam Korb was a tailor and farmer. By his first wife, Mary, he had five children, and by her sister, his second wife, he had thirteen children. Henry Varner and his wife had eleven children, all of whom are married. Mary is now Mrs. Bruce Mills, of Buffalo, and has five children. Amanda is now Mrs. Levi Elletson, and has nine children. Harriet is now Mrs. William Korb, and has five children. John married Reka Wetzig. Henry married Minnie Moss. They have five children. Ruben married Jennie Keefe. Adam married Emma Beutel. They have five children. George married Christine Beutel. They have six children. Milbrey married Lena Moss. They have four children. Archibald married Lulu Retzlaf. Nettie is now Mrs. Walter Schwietering and has two children. This makes forty grandchildren—and there are thirteen living great grandchildren. Henry Elletson, grandson of Henry Varner and son of Amanda Elletson, became the father of triplets and twins. The triplets all died, but the twins are living. In 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Varner celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The health of the Varner family is worthy of note. Mr. Varner is a man of the most robust constitution, and has never found it necessary to consult a physician. Several of his children, also, have never been attended by a physician. The grandchildren also inherit the same robust constitution. Mrs. Varner died May 16, 1914.

**Paul Liederbach**, Buffalo, extensive automobile dealer, was born on the old homestead in Rockford township, this county, February 26, 1875, son of Henry Liederbach, Sr., the pioneer. He was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood and in the graded schools of Minneapolis, after which he learned the carpenter's trade. He also became an expert operator of gas, gasoline and steam engines. Combining the two occupations of engineer and carpenter, he received extensive experience in North and South Dakota, Minnesota and Illinois. After this he was employed as a machinist and general repair man in Minneapolis. In 1913 he opened his present large place in Buffalo. Selecting a desirable location on the lake front, he erected a splendid garage, 36 by 70 feet, with a cement floor, and modern equipment. Aside from doing a large repair, storage and rental business, he has the agency for the Reo passenger cars and trucks and the Metz passenger car. Mr. Liederbach still keeps his 120-acre farm in Rockford township, which he rents. He was married

August 26, 1902, to Josie McCardell, daughter of William McCardell, and they have one son, Menzo Marvin, born September 21, 1903. The family attend the Christian church.

**William McCardell**, for over thirty years a resident of Wright county, now deceased, was born in what is now Pleasants county, West Virginia, January 11, 1846. When the people of western Virginia failed to follow that state into the Confederacy, and a new state, called West Virginia, was organized, Mr. McCardell joined the home guards and was commissioned second lieutenant in one of the companies of the Ninth Regiment, Second Brigade, First Division, West Virginia militia. In 1881, being then a young man of thirty-five, he brought his family to Wright county. He took up his residence in Montrose Village, and there lived until 1904, when he moved to Dickinson, Minn., and engaged in the general merchandise business until 1913, when he returned to Montrose. His life was an active and useful one, and his death, April 1, 1914, was sincerely mourned. Mr. McCardell was a sincere Christian, a whole-souled, honorable man who gave out brightness and good fellowship and brightened all the lives with which he came in contact. He was a noble husband, a kind father and a good neighbor. Mr. McCardell was married in 1874, at Shiloh, W. Va., to Emma J. Core. This union was blessed with three children, Cynthia, Effie and Josie. Cynthia is the wife of Robert Pryor, of Redwood Falls, Minn. Josie is the wife of Paul Liederbach, of Buffalo, Minn. Effie is dead.

**George C. Carpenter** is one of Wright county's most distinguished citizens. Widely known throughout the state, his ability, worth and genial temperament have won him extended recognition and a large circle of friends. As sheriff, business man, state senator and lumberman he has had his share in the progress of the state, and his loyalty and efficiency have demonstrated that he is more than worthy of the many honors which have been showered upon him. A self-made man, who as a boy encountered difficulties and discouragements, he is ever ready to lend a helping hand to all those who are in need of advice, assistance or cheer, and his opinions upon all subjects are accorded respect and consideration. George C. Carpenter was born in Columbia county, Wisconsin, March 22, 1855, son of Amsa and Ophelonia (Bushnell) Carpenter. Amsa was a man of some prominence in his community and served in a Wisconsin regiment during the Civil war. He was born in Wisconsin. His father, John Carpenter, came from near Syracuse, N. Y. Amsa Carpenter and his good wife had four children, Edward, George C., Charles and Lasira. George C. was next to the oldest child. At the age of eight years he lost his mother, and he was bound out by his father to the family of Hiram W. Roblier. In 1864, when twenty years of age, Mr. Carpenter came to Minnesota,



worked on farms and taught school in Dodge county. Subsequently he attended Wayland College at Beaver Dam, Wis., two years. Then he was in the mail service four years. It was in 1886 that he located in Buffalo. With George W. Burrows as a partner, he engaged in the lumber business until late in 1892, when he was elected sheriff of Wright county. He served until the close of 1896. Sheriff Carpenter was a good officer, and under his capable direction law and order were admirably maintained. When he retired from office he opened a drygoods and clothing store, which he still successfully conducts. In the fall of 1906 he was elected to the state senate, the position in which he served until January 1, 1915. He had been an influential member of that body and has attracted much favorable attention to the county. He has been a member of the Republican county and congressional committees, and of both of these he has been chairman. He served on the village board for several years and was village president for one term. Throughout his active service in Buffalo he has been a prominent Republican, has served on various committees, and has been a delegate to many conventions. He is a member of the Odd Fellows, the Rebekahs and the Workmen at Buffalo, and of the Elks at St. Cloud. Combining as he does true dignity and worth with a genial, affable disposition and a whimsical sense of humor, he is a welcome addition to any group of people, and his social connections are far extended. Robust and hearty of health, Senator Carpenter has made a hobby of outdoor life. He is fond of hunting and fishing and has done much toward the preservation of fish and game in Minnesota. Mr. Carpenter married Mayme Jones, of Wisconsin, who has been an able helpmate in all his undertakings. She is well known in social circles and is a member of the Rebekahs and the Chautauqua Club and prominent in church work. They have four children: Alice, Keith, Zella and Clara.

**Emil T. Schmidt**, druggist, proprietor of the Schmidt Pharmacy, is one of the most prominent business men of Buffalo. He is of the type that is known as a "booster" and he favors every move that has for its object the forward progress of Buffalo or Wright county. A native of this county, he was born on his father's homestead in Buffalo township, September 9, 1878, son of Traugott Schmidt, who is appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. Emil T. was reared on the farm, and like other boys of his neighborhood attended the ungraded district schools. Then he entered the Buffalo high school, where he made most commendable progress as a scholar. Thus prepared, he entered the College of Pharmacy of the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1900. A short time later he entered the employ of the Schimmin Drug Company, of Buffalo. In 1904 he bought the establishment and gave it his own name. He carried

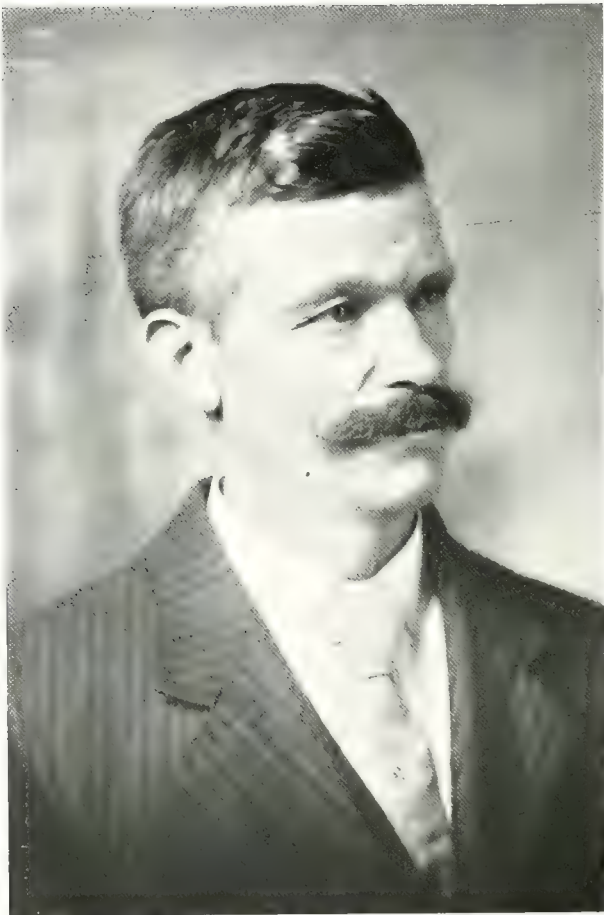


a complete line of drugs, medicines, chemicals, stationery and novelties. He has a splendid ice cream fountain and enjoys a large trade. As a compounder of prescriptions he has few equals in the county. Aside from operating his store, Mr. Schmidt has taken the agency for the Ford automobile for this vicinity, and handles a full line of machines and accessories. Mr. Schmidt's abilities have commended themselves to his fellow citizens, and since 1908 he has served on the city council. He is a member of the Blue Lodge, Chapter and Eastern Star of the Masonic order, and his wife is also a member of the Eastern Star. He has taken a particular interest in the Buffalo Commercial Club. Mr. Schmidt was married September 12, 1906, to Alice Wheeler, of Mankato, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Wheeler.

**William Vorse**, the pioneer, was born in Chenango county, New York, October 14, 1808, son of Henry Vorse, who served as a private in the Revolutionary war under Colonel Burgess. William Vorse was reared in his native state, and as a young man found his way westward to Ohio, where he married Lois M. Hart, a daughter of Randall Wentfield Hart, who had come into the western country from Massachusetts. It was in 1855 that the Vorse family left McHenry county, Illinois, and started for Minnesota. They made the trip overland to Galena, there took a steamer for St. Paul, and then came as far as the Boyanton stage house across the Mississippi river from Clearwater, by stage. From that point they were ferried across the river by the Winnebago Indians, and joined the family of A. M. Dow, who had previously located there. They at once erected a log cabin on a squatter claim in Clearwater township, and started to establish their home in the wilderness. In 1862 they moved to the village of Clearwater, where William Vorse died in November, 1883, at the age of seventy-five and his wife in the spring of 1869 at the age of fifty-six. Mr. Vorse was a member of the Masonic lodge at Clearwater.

**Charles H. Vorse**, one of the best known men in the county, was born in Garden Valley, McHenry county, Illinois, March 22, 1846, son of William and Lois (Hart) Vorse, the pioneers, who in 1855 brought him to Clearwater township in this county. As a young boy Mr. Vorse attended what was, perhaps, the first school taught in Wright county. This school was held in the summer of 1856 on the Big Bend of the Mississippi river, some three miles below the village of Clearwater. The schoolhouse consisted of a sloping roof of brush and leaves, held up by a pole placed across two crotched sticks. When a hard rain fell, this roof was but little protection. The books used were such as the children happened to have at home. The teacher, Mrs. Ellen Kent, was paid by a subscription taken among the parents. Among the pupils were Charles H. Vorse; Anna, Zell and Mannville Markham,





JOHN N. OLSON

Cyrus and Fred Thrall, George Oakes and Maria Boyanton. At the age of sixteen, in 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, under Captain Edward Hartley. He served on the frontier against the Sioux Indians, under General Sulley, and afterward went south and saw service with the Army of the Ohio in the Twenty-third Army Corps. He took part in the Battle of the Cedars and the Battle of British Crossroads, as well as in many minor engagements and skirmishes. After three years of service he was mustered out at Charlotte, N. C., July, 1865. Then he returned to his home and attended school for three months, for although a seasoned war veteran he was not as yet twenty years of age. His schooling completed, he learned the trade of wheelwright from his father and followed this occupation for several years. About 1883 he became proprietor of the Morrison House, at Clearwater, then one of the best hotels northwest of Minneapolis and St. Paul. In 1884 he went to Delano. After conducting the Danforth and Brown hotels there he was in 1889 appointed postmaster under President Benjamin Harrison and served until 1895. Then in 1897 he was appointed clerk of court of the Fourth Judicial District for Wright county. He succeeded himself by election, and served until the close of 1903. Since retiring from office he has retained his home in Buffalo and has devoted his attention to the fire insurance business. Having the progress of the village at heart, he has done good service as a member of the village council. He is now a justice of the peace and the court commissioner. Mr. Vorse became a Mason at Clearwater in 1867 and is now a member of the Nelson lodge of Buffalo. At one time he was an Odd Fellow. He is an active member of John Cochran Post, G. A. R., of Buffalo. Mr. Vorse was married December 24, 1872, to Mary Ella Bogenrief, of Clearwater, and they have had three children, Lois, Nellie and Vivian. Lois married J. W. McDonald, of Minneapolis, and they have one son, Russell. Nellie married Charles Carmen, of North Dakota, and they have a son, Ralph. Vivian is a teacher at Glenwood, Minn. She is a graduate of the St. Cloud State Normal.

**John N. Olson**, proprietor of a popular summer resort on Olson's Point, Buffalo lake, is familiarly known as "Johnny Olson" to all the leading outdoor sportsmen of the Northwest. He has achieved success in life and has done much to advertise Wright county as an ideal place in which to spend a vacation. He was born in Sweden, August 2, 1862, son of Olaf Nelson and Mary Storfall, who brought the family to Goodhue county, this state, in 1868, and in 1869 secured a homestead in Renville township, Renville county. They underwent many severe experiences as pioneers. During the hard winter of 1870-71, the cabin was completely covered with snow, so that they were unable to get



out of the house for three days. Then they had egress only by tunneling through the snow. At the age of sixteen, John N. started in life for himself by securing employment herding cattle on the prairie for the neighbors. In the fall of 1881 he determined to come to Wright county. He had a horse, but no harness or vehicle. But with the resourcefulness which has ever characterized his career, he set to work, and with ropes and odd straps, and with pieces of rock elm from his father's woodpile, he in five days and nights had completed his outfit. Then he drove to this county. He stayed all winter and in the spring returned home. But he was convinced that Wright county was the best place for him, so he came back to Buffalo and secured employment in a sawmill. After working for a whole season and spending his money freely he found that he did not have enough left to buy a postage stamp, which then cost three cents. This determined him to settle down in earnest and save his money. So well did he persist in this resolve that in five years, though he received but a dollar or a dollar and a quarter a day, he had taken in \$1,011 and saved \$735. With this money he started a boat house on Buffalo lake at the edge of the village. He continued in the business of boat renting for four years. Then he operated a paint and paper store for four years. After that for eight years he followed the blacksmith trade. The next four years were devoted to a vacation. In speaking of this period, Mr. Olson often declared that idleness was more wearing than the most severe manual labor. In time Mr. Olson came to see the possibilities of Buffalo as a summer resort. He accordingly purchased the land on Buffalo lake, opposite Buffalo village, which has since borne his name. He built a stone house, and let it be known that his place was open for the entertainment of guests. Fishing parties immediately flocked there, sometimes as many as eighteen men being in the house at once. Mr. Olson did the work himself, and his cooking and baking became widely famed. But as the patronage increased he was compelled to secure assistance and to erect new buildings. He now has a full corps of assistants, and is well provided to entertain all who may come. From a point eighty rods from his house seven good fishing lakes may be seen, and the duck hunting is also good. He has a large fleet of boats, and everything that goes to make up a successful summer resort. One of the especially attractive features is his spring of the purest water, constantly flowing. Mr. Olson is genial and courteous, is greatly liked, and well deserves the unusual success with which he has met. Mr. Olson was married March 12, 1888, to Augusta Swenson. The Buffalo "Journal" of January 25, 1907, says: "Mrs. John Olson died Sunday, January 20, 1907, of tuberculosis. She had been a helpless invalid for seventeen years from the effects of a scald from hot water. Last summer she

contracted tubercular trouble and was released from suffering by death. The funeral services were conducted by Rev. Sandstrom Wednesday afternoon at the Mission Church. During these long years of suffering by this woman her husband, "Johnny" Olson, as he is generally called, has done his duty and has been highly commended. A tireless worker, never considering his own health or convenience, he was never too busy to perform acts of kindness for his invalid wife. His sunny disposition has been a wonder to the community, as he has never been known to complain of his difficulties and never found fault about anything. Such rare cases of fidelity and fortitude ought to have a good influence on grumbling humanity and help everyone to bear the burdens which appear heavy, but are light compared to the real afflictions of life."

**Gustave Rettke**, one of the old settlers of Franklin township, was born in Germany, in June, 1842, and was there reared. As a young man he married Wilhelmina Senkel, who was born in October, 1839. In 1870 they left Germany with their child, Henry, and started for America. Another child, Emil William, was born on board ship. After landing, the family came on to Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where another child, Bertha, was born. In 1872 they came to Wright county and located in Franklin township. For a time they rented land, but in October, 1876, they obtained a homestead on Fountain lake in that township, where for many years they made their home. At the time of the purchase there were no improvements on the place. They erected a log cabin, cleared the land with the aid of an ox team, and in time had an excellent farm, with modern buildings and equipment. In the meantime Mr. Rettke followed to a certain extent his trade as a stone mason. The work which he donated in this line was one of the features which made possible the building of the German Evangelical Church of Delano Village, a church in which he was trustee for many years. In May, 1905, Mr. and Mrs. Rettke moved to Buffalo, where they now live. Their children born in Wright county are: Ernest, Aurora, Minnie, Matilda, Paulina (died in infancy) and Herman.

**Emil William Rettke**, leading jeweler of Buffalo, is also one of its most progressive merchants. A man of genial temperament and a thorough master of his business, he enjoys a constantly increasing trade, and is highly regarded by all with whom he comes in contact. He has forged ahead by hard work and energy, and is well deserving of the full measure of success with which he has met. He was born on shipboard, on the Atlantic ocean, in May, 1870, son of Gustave and Wilhelmina (Senkel) Rettke, the early settlers. He was reared on the banks of Fountain lake in Franklin township, attended the district schools, farmed with his father, and learned the trades of carpenter and mason. From

his youth, however, he had cherished a desire to be a merchant, and consequently, in November, 1895, he moved to Buffalo and opened a confectionery store. At times he sold jewelry, and in 1905 he determined to install a full line. Consequently he opened a jewelry and repair store, which he has since conducted with such marked success. In politics, Mr. Rettke is a Republican. He is very active in public affairs and is a prominent man in every respect. In 1903 he was elected as a member of the council and did good work in that capacity. For many years he has occupied a foremost place in the local lodge of Modern Woodmen of America, in which he is a prominent member. On June 28, 1905, Mr. Rettke married Nellie J. Johnson, daughter of Christian Johnson, and they have one child, Donald Herbert.

**John Richards**, a farmer living in Buffalo, was born in Toronto, Canada, January 3, 1864, son of Emmanuel and Eleanor J. (Wilson) Richards. Emmanuel Richards was born in England and there took up the meat business. As a young man he came to Canada, where he followed the same line at Toronto. He was married in Canada, and in 1867 came to Buffalo, bringing the following children: David, Susan C., John and Abraham L. (now deceased). One son, Emmanuel, Jr., was born in Minnesota. The family located on a tract of 197 acres in section 20, Buffalo township, which they purchased from the Gilbert estate. The place was at that time badly run down. But by industry, thrift and hard work they brought it to a high degree of cultivation, adding eighty acres and equipping it with everything necessary for the carrying on of successful farming. Emmanuel Richards died in the winter of 1891 at the age of sixty-four years and Mrs. Richards now resides at Santiago, Cal., with her daughter, Susan C. McKee. John Richards was educated in Buffalo township, was reared on the home farm, and as his father's health failed, took general charge of the place. Later he bought out the other heirs and successfully followed general farming until 1913, when he moved to the village of Buffalo, where he now resides. He has sold the old homestead but still retains land in section 20, Buffalo township. Mr. Richards has been a respected, hard-working man, and is highly esteemed by all who know him. On July 17, 1890, Mr. Richards married Kate McGary, a native of this state, and they have three children, John Preston, of Belle Plain, Minn., and Edna and Elsie Helen, both at home.

**Samuel L. Cronk**, veteran of the Civil war, and retired farmer, now living in Buffalo, was born in Steuben county, New York, son of Philip and Mary (Lawrence) Cronk, natives of Pennsylvania, who some years after the birth of Samuel L. moved back to Bradford county in their native state and there spent the remainder of their days. Philip Cronk as a young man was a blacksmith. Later in life he took up farming. Himself a soldier of





SAMUEL L. CRONK AND FAMILY





the Civil war, he gave five sons to the service. The children in the family were as follows: Joseph, Adeline, Edgar (veteran), Malissa, Samuel L. (veteran), William (veteran), George (veteran), Josiah (veteran), Mariah (twin to Josiah) and Calvin. Of these sons, William came to Wright county in the fifties and located in Rockford township. Samuel L. came to Minnesota in 1859 and visited his brother at Rockford, but spent the larger part of his time in the vicinity of Red Wing. In 1861 he enlisted in Company H, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served within a month of four years. He went south with the regiment and was assigned to the Army of the Cumberland. He was captured at Murfreesboro, but was soon afterward paroled and sent to fight the Indians in the vicinity of Wood lake. Later he was again sent south with the regiment and assigned to the Army of Tennessee. He was mustered out of the service in Arkansas, paid off at Ft. Snelling and discharged. After the war he came to Wright county and followed his trade as a carpenter wherever he could find work. He was one of those who assisted in erecting the Wright County Court House in 1877. He also built the first Presbyterian church in Buffalo. Later he secured eighty acres on the banks of Lake Pulaski, cleared up the land, erected buildings and did some farming. In 1896 he retired and moved to Buffalo, where he took up his residence in a house which he had erected about 1875. Mr. Cronk became a member of the Masonic lodge at Rockford, but when the lodge was organized at Buffalo, December 12, 1879, he became one of the charter members of Nelson Lodge, No. 135, A. F. & A. M., and was the first Tyler of the lodge. He is also a member of the G. A. R. His wife is a member of the Eastern Star and of the Relief Corps. The family worships at the Presbyterian church. Mr. Cronk was married, as a young man, to Matilda Stokes, a native of England, who died and left him one son, Arthur. In November, 1869, Mr. Cronk married Harriett Gilchrist, by whom he has two children, Willard and Irene. The parents of Mrs. Cronk were Archibald and Elizabeth Gilchrist, who brought her from Indiana at the age of eleven years and located on eighty acres lying on the township line between Buffalo and Monticello.

**John Dixon**, well known in Buffalo and vicinity, was born on the old homestead in Frankfort township, April 2, 1857, son of James Dixon, the pioneer, who is appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. John Dixon remained at home until his marriage, January 17, 1889, after which he located on a farm in section 8, Rockford township, where he farmed 160 acres for fifteen years. His was a true pioneer venture. When he moved onto the tract it was entirely covered with timber. He cut off the wood and brought the land under cultivation, living in the meantime in a small frame house and sheltering his stock in a log

barn. Later these buildings were replaced with more modern structures. A barn, 44 by 80 feet, which he constructed, was, when it was new, one of the very finest in the county. It was on November 20, 1903, that Mr. Dixon and his good wife moved onto lot 24, which included lots 9, 10 and 11, on the picturesque banks of Lake Pulaski. A brick house which had stood on the place had been remodeled and renovated and put in proper shape to be opened as a first-class summer hotel. Guests began to flock to the place faster than they could be accommodated. Mr. Dixon enlarged his park to some eighteen acres by purchasing lots 8 and 12, and provided for his increasing patronage by erecting six cottages, a good barn and a dancing pavilion 36 by 74 feet, with a garage underneath. Boats of various descriptions and other attractions were also secured. Business continued to prosper until the venture assumed larger proportions than Mr. and Mrs. Dixon cared to handle. Consequently on May 1, 1913, they sold out to other parties, retaining, however, a small tract of land on which to erect a private residence for themselves. This tract consists of lot 17 and seventeen acres besides, on which he has erected a building which he intends to equip with cottage apartments. Mr. Dixon, on coming to Buffalo village, purchased the Heiller property. He has remodeled the residence, installed a hot water heating plant and made other extensive improvements. John Dixon was married January 17, 1889, to Louise A. Elhardt, and they have five children: James, on the old farm, section 8, Rockford; June, Chester and Francis, at home, and Charles, deceased. The daughter is a teacher. Louise A. (Elhardt) Dixon was born in Milwaukee, Wis., December 11, 1862, daughter of Adam and Ernestina (Frederick) Elhardt, and granddaughter of Herman and Catherine Elhardt and Gotlieb and Sophia Frederick. Herman Elhardt was the head of a family that came from Hesse, Germany, and located in Milwaukee. He was a cooper by trade. His son Adam was nineteen years of age when the family arrived in this country. Gotlieb Frederick brought his family from Saxony, Germany, and located in Milwaukee, where, after working for a while at his trade as a baker, he became a farmer. Adam and Ernestina (Frederick) Elhardt had thirteen children: Louise A. (Mrs. John Dixon), Herman, Amanda, Emily, Emma, Jacob, Helen, Ida, Ella (deceased), Alma, Fred, and two who died in infancy.

**William Davies**, an estimable citizen, now deceased, was born in Breckenshire, Glaseburg, South Wales, March 7, 1823, and was there reared and learned the trade of shoemaking. Later he became an extensive shoe dealer. In 1869 he came to America and located in Maryland. In 1877 he came to Wright county and engaged at his trade in Buffalo. After his arrival here he purchased two acres of land on Lake Pulaski, erected a log

cabin, and walked to and from his work in the village. In time he remodeled the log cabin, and there he spent his declining years. He died in May, 1895. He was a prominent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and did much to materially assist in its growth and progress. Mr. Davies was married in July, 1861, to Mary Ann Thomas, born in England October 20, 1836, daughter of Stephen and May (Davis) Thomas, and to this union eight children have been born: William Morley (deceased), Lillie (deceased), Clara, Edith and Elizabeth Gertrude, wife of Abram Richards, both now deceased. Three others died in infancy. The four daughters named above all taught in the schools of this county. Stephen Thomas was born in England, and as a young man became a butler. When he moved to South Wales he became interested in mining, and by gradual promotion he became superintendent of supplies for an important mining company. Lake View House, conducted by Mrs. William Davies, is one of the most popular summer resorts in this vicinity. Situated on the banks of beautiful Lake Pulaski, in a pretty grove of trees, and supplied with a splendid well two hundred feet deep, it has many natural advantages, and the atmosphere of quiet and refinement, with the homelike comforts, attract a desirable class of people seeking rest and recreation. Cottages have been built in addition to the original home, and everything is done for the convenience and joy of the guests. Many years ago Mrs. Davies began by taking as boarders a few people who were attracted by the beauties of the lake, and gradually the demand for accommodations became so great that Mrs. Davies established a regular summer resort. The food is of the best, the accommodations are adequate and there are ample provisions for outdoor recreation and sport. Mrs. Davies is the soul of hospitality, all her guests are made to feel like old friends, she has a hearty greeting for all, and is a cheerful, capable woman in every respect.

**Aaron W. Furtney**, an estimable citizen now living in retirement in Buffalo, was born in Ontario, Canada, August 19, 1842, son of Joseph and Charlotte (Hilker) Furtney. Joseph Furtney was the son of Jacob and Elizabeth Furtney, who brought the family from Pennsylvania to Ontario, Canada, at the close of the Revolutionary war. Charlotte (Hilker) Furtney was brought to America from Germany at the age of fifteen by her parents, Aaron and Charlotte Hilker. Joseph Furtney and his wife had eleven children: Aaron W., Josiah, Joseph, Henry, William, John, Henrietta, Lydia, Hannah, Elizabeth and Jacob. Aaron W. was reared in Canada, and mastered farm pursuits. In 1861 he located in Saginaw, Mich. At the opening of the Civil war he enlisted from Rochester, N. Y., in Company C, Eighth New York Heavy Artillery, and served until the close of the conflict. He was captured at the Battle of Petersburg and taken to Richmond.



There he was put to work as fireman on an engine. But one day, being cut off from the guards, he and the engineer escaped to the Union lines after two months' captivity. He was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and after the war worked as a fireman on Ohio river steamers. Later he returned to his home in Michigan, and entered the pine woods, having experience both at chopping and driving. From there he went to Decorah, Iowa, where he learned the trade of masonry. For a while he worked as a contractor in Austin, in this state. Then he worked in the "Soo" Railroad shops in Minneapolis. In 1896 he came to Frankfort township, in this county, and purchased thirty-four acres on the banks of Lake Charlotte. The land at that time was wild and covered with brush and had no buildings of any kind. He cleared the land into a park-like tract and erected a rustic log cabin. Later he sided over the cabin, built a large dining room, and opened a summer hotel known as the Furtney resort. In connection with his hotel he kept twelve rowboats and a launch, and his place was very popular. In 1912 he sold out to a group of philanthropists, who use the place as a fresh air resort for city boys. Mr. Furtney now resides in Buffalo, where he has a comfortable cottage home. After his life of interesting experiences he is now enjoying a well-earned rest from the pressing activities of life. At the age of twenty-nine, Mr. Furtney married Martha Hibbert, a native of Norway, daughter of Jacob and Dorondo Hibbert. Mrs. Furtney died in Minneapolis at the age of fifty-two, in 1891, just twenty years from the time she was married. She left four children, Dora, Edward, Minnie and Ella. In 1894 Mr. Furtney married Albina Dupont, born in Canada, near Montreal, daughter of Eli and Delima (Gardbois) Dupont, who settled near St. Anthony in 1865. In the Dupont family there were sixteen children.

**Samuel O. Helmer**, an estimable citizen of Buffalo, now retired, was born in Wood county, Ohio, son of Philip Van Rensselaer and Hannah (Swain) Helmer. The Helmers are descended from a family that came from Holland in the seventeenth century. Philip was one of four brothers, Philip, Peter, John and James. Peter settled in Indiana and James in Wisconsin, while John remained in New York. Philip, after having married Hannah Swain (daughter of Horace Swain, of New York, who afterward located in Indiana, where he died), came westward about 1845 and located in Ohio, where he hauled boats on the Miami canal, which had just been completed. About 1851 he located in LaGrange county, Indiana, where he farmed. He died there about 1860. His wife died in 1902 at the age of seventy-four. Samuel O. was the only child in the family. He received a good education in the schools of Indiana and was reared to farm pursuits. As a young man he learned the carpenter's trade. In





THOR THOMPSON AND FAMILY

April, 1869, he came to Wright county and for a short time stopped at Dean lake, in Rockford township, some four miles south of Buffalo. Later he purchased 160 acres in section 29, Buffalo township. On this place there was standing at that time a small house, and seven or eight acres had been cleared. He moved into the little house, installed his mother as housekeeper, and with a yoke of oxen started to clear the land. After his marriage his wife and he continued to improve the place. For many years they toiled together, working early and late, and by diligent endeavor attained success. Mr. Helmer was supervisor of the township for many years and chairman a part of that time. He was assessor for several terms, and served on the school board of his district a long period. In 1910 he and his wife took up their permanent home at Buffalo. Mr. Helmer was married in November, 1870, to Margaret C. Smith, born in Licking county, Ohio, daughter of Harrison and Margaret Smith, natives of Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Helmer have had two children, Cora B. and Lloyd Harrison. Cora B. was born in 1872, married Charles H. Aldrich and has six children, John H., Helen, Frank, Alice, Florence and James. Lloyd Harrison was born July 3, 1877, and married Helen S. Major. He was drowned in Lake Pulaski July 8, 1906. A son, Lloyd Major, was born after his death, July 21, 1906.

**Thor Thompson**, a leading jeweler and music dealer, with headquarters at Buffalo and branch stores at Maple Lake and Annandale, was born in Pope county, this state, February 17, 1877, son of Thomas and Guro (Hanson) Thompson, natives of Norway, who were married in Telemarken, Norway, came to the United States in June, 1872, and settled in Pope county, Minnesota. In 1877 they homesteaded 160 acres in the town of Reno, Pope county, where they lived till their death. The mother died December 7, 1892, and the father January 21, 1902. Thor Thompson was reared on the home farm. He became a true Christian at the early age of fourteen years and at the age of nineteen he felt he was called to devote his time to religious work. With this high ideal in view he became a member of the Scandinavian Mission Society of the United States of America, and as a member of this society he spent over thirteen years as a missionary. Doing missionary work, he traveled in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, Oregon and California. For a period of that time he served as settled pastor. Mr. Thompson was married in 1903 at Windom, Minn., to Ida Mary Lundman, a native of Westbrook, Cottonwood county, Minnesota, daughter of Peter G. and Anna (Carlson) Lundman, who were born in Sweden and married in the United States. In 1911 Mr. and Mrs. Lundman moved to Buffalo, where they still reside. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson made



their home in Clarissa, Minn., for a short time and from there they moved to Buffalo, this state, and later to Minneapolis. On account of spending most of his time as traveling missionary, Mr. Thompson's health commenced to fail and he was obliged to engage in some other line of endeavor. Consequently he returned to Buffalo, in the spring of 1910, and in the fall of the same year he opened a jewelry and music store, starting on a small scale. By his honest dealing and courteous and pleasant manners customers are made to feel their welcome, and owing to the fact that his goods are of the highest quality and his workmanship the very best, his establishment has grown to such an extent that there is not a business concern in Wright county that can show such a record. In the fall of 1913 Mr. Thompson established a branch store at Maple Lake, and placed his brother-in-law, Albin Lundman, in charge. In May, 1914, he established a branch store at Annandale. Theodore Lundman, also a brother-in-law of Mr. Thompson, has charge of the store at this place. In all three stores is carried a full line of jewelry, pianos and musical instruments, typewriters, sewing machines, novelties and the like. Mr. Thompson is an authorized dealer in Edison phonographs in Maple Lake, and from his store in that place will fill orders for Edison goods to any part of the country. In need of anything in his line, everyone from a grown person to a little child can with confidence go to his store and be sure to get the right goods at the right price. He makes watch repairing a specialty, and he takes pride in repairing watches where others have failed. In addition to this Mr. Thompson is agent for the Twin City Fire Insurance Company, of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have four children, Stanley Rosswell, Archie Bernard, Myrtle Viola and Chester Irvin.

**John C. Nugent, Sr.**, for twenty-seven years sheriff of Wright county, was born in Medford, Middlesex county, Massachusetts, March 18, 1846, son of James Nugent, a native of Ireland, and Maria L. Nugent, a native of Massachusetts. From Medford the family moved to Sault Ste. Marie, Mich., from there to St. Paul, and in September, 1858, to Chatham township, Wright county. John C. Nugent, Sr., received a good public school education, and upon arriving in Wright county took up with his parents the duties of pioneer life. The place which they took was covered with timber. Though then a boy of but eleven years, the subject of this sketch helped in clearing the land and in getting in the first crops. In 1866 he started out for himself by securing a tract of land in Chatham township. He became a successful farmer and a most popular man in the community. A natural leader, it was a matter of course that he should early take an interest in public affairs. He served in local offices and his popularity grew rapidly, so that in 1867 he was elected sheriff of



JOHN C. NUGENT, SR.



Wright county. He served thereafter twenty-seven years, and with the exception of a few intervals toward the close of that period, almost continuously. He was a good officer, fearless and able, and the law and order of the county, under his administration, was most admirably maintained. Sheriff Nugent had a faculty of making friends, and of holding those that he did make, and his influence was widespread. After a useful life of busy activity he died January 15, 1905. Sheriff Nugent was a Blue lodge, Chapter and Commandery Mason, and a member of the Knights of Pythias, and of the old Druid order. John C. Nugent, Sr., was married, in 1868, to Janette Washburn, born October 24, 1851, of New England ancestry. She died July 29, 1907, widely mourned and deeply beloved. The children in the family were: Nettie (deceased), John C., Jr., Mabel (deceased), Maude, Frank and Loretta.

**John C. Nugent, Jr.**, one of the popular men of Wright county, was born September 11, 1875, on the old Nugent homestead in Chatham township, son of John C. Nugent, Sr., and Janette (Washburn) Nugent. He was reared on the home farm, attended the Buffalo school, and there grew to manhood. For six years he was deputy sheriff under his father, and for two years under William Young. He has a good farm of 267 acres, and carries on general farming, making a specialty of raising good horses. For ten years past he has been rural mail carrier on route 5. He is a member of Buffalo Lodge, No. 141, I. O. O. F. Mr. Nugent married Bessie Ryder November 15, 1904, a native of Buffalo, daughter of James and Lena (Boomgard) Ryder, early settlers. James Ryder was born in Michigan and as a small boy was brought to this county by his parents, James and Anna Ryder. He married Lena Boomgard, a native of Holland.

**Elmer B. Peterson**, of the firm of Swensen & Peterson, lumber dealers, Buffalo, was born in Buffalo township, August 16, 1883, son of Jacob and Anna Peterson, the early settlers. He attended the district schools and spent his life on the home farm until 1910 when he came to Buffalo and engaged in his present business. A man of genial temperament, thoroughly competent in his business, he has made many friends and has built up a large trade. Mr. Peterson was married, in June, 1910, to Mabel Johnson, daughter of Gust Johnson, a pioneer of Rockford township.

**Jacob Peterson** was born in Sweden, April 5, 1851, son of Andrew and Carrie (Olson) Erickson, and grandson of Erick Peterson, from whom the family name was derived. In 1868, Jacob Peterson's brother, Erick Peterson (who took his grandfather's name), and his half-brother, Ole Anderson, came to America. In 1869, Andrew Erickson, the father of Jacob Peterson, came. In 1871, Jacob Peterson's half-sister, Christina, came with her husband, Erick Trogen, and two children, Andrew and



Anna. In 1870, Andrew Tating, another half-brother, came. It was on June 2, 1872, that Jacob Peterson himself landed in New York. He was followed in 1873 by the mother, and the remaining sister. They completed the family in America. All are now dead except Jacob Peterson and Christina Trogen. The father, Andrew Erickson, the half-brothers, Jacob Peterson, Erick Peterson and Ole Anderson, and the brother-in-law, Erick Trogen, each secured homesteads of eighty acres in Silver Creek township. Later Jacob Peterson went to St. Cloud. There he learned the wagon and carriage-making trade. Subsequently he returned to Buffalo and worked in a shop here some five years. Then he moved onto a tract of eighty acres one and a half miles east of Buffalo. Few improvements had been made on this land and the stumps were abundant. Mr. Peterson made many improvements, farmed at first with a yoke of oxen, gradually introduced modern machinery, erected good buildings and lived on the place twenty-seven years. He was active in church and Sunday school work of the Baptist denomination, and served as a deacon. In 1909 he returned from active farm work, moved to Buffalo, and erected a sightly home on Grant avenue, the most beautiful residence street in the city. Mr. Peterson was married in 1882 to Anna Peterson, born in Sweden January 6, 1859, daughter of Peter Olson and Carrie Erickson, his wife, who spent the span of their years on a farm in Sweden. Two daughters, Anna and her sister, Carrie, came to America in 1881. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have nine children, Elmer B., Ellis, Albert, Esther, Minnie, Bartel, Helen, Jennie and Adolph.

**Eberhardt F. Nagel**, a pioneer, was born in Germany and came to America as a young man. After living two years in Pennsylvania and two years in Ohio, he reached Monticello, in this county, where he met and married Louisa Keherbach, who was born in Germany, came to America with her brother, Louis Keherbach, and shortly before her marriage reached Monticello. May 15, 1858, the young people came to what is now Buffalo, and located three miles east of the present village on eighty acres in section 15, Buffalo township. This tract was all wild land in the midst of a wilderness. They erected a log cabin and cut down the trees and broke up and planted the first acre with the use of an old-fashioned grub hoe. In about two years they were enabled to purchase a yoke of oxen. It was about 1863 when they moved to section 18, Rockford township. There they purchased a claim on which a small log cabin and log barn had been erected and six acres of land cleared. They developed this place into a splendid 200-acre farm, and here spent many years of their lives. They were substantial, God-fearing people, and no one stood better in the community than did they. In 1892 they moved to a farm of forty acres, which Mr. Nagel had previously purchased,

on the banks of Buffalo lake, within the present village limits of Buffalo. There they ended their days, Eberhardt F. in 1898 at the age of seventy, and his wife in 1909 at the age of seventy-four. Mr. Nagel was one of the organizers of his school district in Rockford township, and served as its treasurer until he removed to Buffalo. A devout Methodist in religion, he helped to establish the first church of that denomination in Rockford township. In the family there were seven children: Edward M., Laura, wife of Frank Crookshank, of Bellingham, Wash.; Herman, now on the forty-acre farm on the banks of Buffalo lake; Frank, a druggist of St. Paul, and three who died in childhood.

**Edward M. Nagel**, for many years prominently identified with the public life of the county and state, was born on section 15, Buffalo township, March 21, 1863, son of Eberhardt F. and Louisa (Keherbach) Nagel, the pioneers. He was reared on his father's farm in Rockford township, attended the public schools, and remained at home for many years. For a considerable period he worked in a hardware store in Buffalo. His public life started while he was still on the farm, where he served for several years as assessor of Rockford township. In 1893 and 1894 he was deputy sheriff under George C. Carpenter. From 1895 to 1899 he was register of deeds of Wright county. In 1905 and 1906 he was deputy register of deeds under O. M. Palmquist. In 1906 he was elected to the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, where he served with distinction for two years, in the sessions of 1907 and 1909. During this time he was a member of the committees on Taxes and Tax Laws, Enrollment, Education, Compensation of Public Officials and General Legislation. In June, 1910, he was commissioned by President W. H. Taft as postmaster at Buffalo. His work in this capacity gave general satisfaction. Always faithful to duty, he worked day by day, and built up as splendid a service as can be found in a town of its size anywhere. He retired August 24, 1914, and re-entered private life. Mr. Nagel has traveled extensively. A man of wide reading and pleasant personality, he makes friends of all with whom he has come in contact, and he is intimately acquainted with leading and influential men throughout the country. Reared on the farm, gardening and horticulture are his great delight, and his apples and garden vegetables have won first prizes at the local fair. Mr. Nagel's special pride is his handsome cottage on the shores of Buffalo lake, well away from the center of the business activity but within the village limits. The beautiful cottage is set on a slightly lawn, and its interior is finished in hard wood. An orchard of prize-winning apple trees adorns the lawn, and here is also found a small garden. Stretching away to the lake is a picturesque grove, and at the foot of the grove is a beach where the conditions for bathing are ideal. Here Mr.

Nagel entertains his favored friends. Mr. Nagel is a member of numerous societies, including the Chapter and Blue lodge of the Masons. He was one of the organizers of the First State Bank of Buffalo and served as its first vice-president. In 1906 he was a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

**Thomas Smithson**, a pioneer, was born on Long Island, in New York state, was reared in that state, and as a youth learned the trade of machinist and engineer. He married Hannah Humphrey, a native of New York City, and there were born three children, Susan, George and Amelia. Susan died in New York state. In 1856 Thomas Smithson brought his family to Wright county, among the earliest pioneers, and located on 160 acres on the west side of Lake Pulaski, in Buffalo township. There he erected a log cabin and began farming with the aid of an ox team. On this farm five more children, William, Sarah, Adelaide, Elizabeth, Adeline (twins), Katie and Emma, were born. Sarah Adelaide was but six weeks old when her mother died in 1861, at the age of thirty-three. Bereaved of his wife, Mr. Smithson went to St. Paul, and there for a time followed his trade. For his second wife, he married Harriet Clute, and returned to his farm on Lake Pulaski, where he added eighty acres of land to his original claim, erected modern buildings, and brought the place to a high stage of cultivation. Before coming west he had joined the Baptist church and the Odd Fellows at Hoboken, N. J. At Buffalo he joined the Masons. Mr. Smithson died December 19, 1896, at the age of seventy. It is interesting to note that while working in a foundry at Minneapolis Mr. Smithson helped turn out the first car wheels ever made in Minnesota.

**Thomas Henderson**, a retired farmer living in Buffalo, was born in Ontario, Canada, January 21, 1855, son of Thomas (Sr.) and Sarah (Robinson) Henderson, natives of Ireland, who came as children to Canada, married and became leading farmers. Thomas Henderson, Sr., died in the prime of manhood, leaving three sons, William, Joel and Thomas. Later the widow married Mathew McClay, and by this union had seven children, Sarah J., Samuel, James, John, Leslie, Margaret and Robert. Mr. McClay, in 1873, brought the family to Minnesota and settled in Howard Lake, this county, where he and his wife spent the remainder of their lives. Thomas Henderson received his early education in Canada. After coming to this county he took up farming on eighty acres of land in Middleville township. He married at the age of twenty-three. In 1881 they went to Sherburne county, where they farmed until 1909. Then they secured five acres in the suburbs of Buffalo, where they now reside, the tract giving Mr. Henderson just enough work to keep him busy, without proving the burden that a larger farm would be. Mr. Henderson is allied



with the Masonic body at Monticello. Mr. Henderson was married April 30, 1878, to Sarah Adelaide Smithson, daughter of Thomas and Hannah (Humphrey) Smithson, pioneers of Wright county. Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have three children, Eva Jane, wife of H. H. Chilson, of Big Lake; George A., of British Columbia; and Mabel, wife of R. A. Marriage, of Big Lake.

**John C. Aldrich**, one of the early settlers of Buffalo township, now deceased, was born in Deposit, Broome county, New York, March 2, 1828. At the age of eight he was brought by his parents to Ohio, and from that state, when he was thirteen, they set out by team for Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where he grew to manhood. After attaining maturity he returned to New York state and there married a Miss Tuttle, who died a year later, leaving him one daughter, Hattie. Then he returned to Jefferson county and took up farming for a while. There he married Mrs. Matilda (Whitney) Sexton. It was in 1864 that they came to Minnesota and located in Dakota county. In 1886 they came to Wright county and settled on 160 acres in section 28, Buffalo township, for which he paid \$6 an acre. On the place was a log house built by the pioneer, George Davis, and some of the land had been broken. But the place was for the most part wild and timbered. Mr. Aldrich cut off the timber, broke the land, erected a frame house and suitable barns, and became a prosperous man. He was much interested in school matters, and took an active part therein, helping to build the first, second and third school-house in his district. He was also an active worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Aldrich died in 1898 at the age of sixty-nine. His wife died in 1888 at the age of fifty-eight. They had three children, Elmer, Charles and Willis S.

**Charles Aldrich**, one of the leading dairymen of Wright county, was born in Dakota county, this state, February 21, 1866, son of John C. and Matilda Aldrich. He was brought to Buffalo township as an infant, was reared on section 28, and on attaining the years of manhood purchased the home place from his father. He now has 120 acres of good land. On it he has erected good buildings and made many other improvements. While he does general farming and raises some Percheron horses, his great specialty is dairying. He has a splendid herd of full-blooded Guernsey cattle that yield him large returns. His average check, per cow, for 1914, was \$98.25. For a long period he has been an officer of the Buffalo Co-Operative Creamery. In 1912, he completed a service of fifteen years as town clerk, in which position he won much praise. He has served on the school board ever since he was twenty-one years of age. In fact, he has done whatever he had found of advantage to the township in which he has lived, and he is regarded as one of her most useful citizens. He is well known in the village and there belongs to the A. O. U. W. Lodge.



Mr. Aldrich married Cora Helmer, and he has six children, John, Helen, Frank, Alice, Florence and James, of whom he may well be proud.

**William Abel**, a prosperous farmer of Buffalo township, was born on the old homestead in the neighborhood where he still resides, March 1, 1871, son of Jacob and Christina (Erickson) Abel, the pioneers, who are appropriately mentioned elsewhere. He attended the district schools, and at the age of twenty-two started out for himself by purchasing eighty acres of land from his father. By hard work and industrious intelligence, he has been enabled to add eighty acres more. He has erected modern buildings, and has good equipment. He raises general crops and makes a specialty of full-blooded Holstein cattle. Being of a fraternal disposition, Mr. Abel has allied himself with the Workmen. William Abel was married in 1901 to Florence Denney, a pioneer, who is mentioned elsewhere in this work. They have five children: Ivory, Elmer, Edna, Blanche and Howard.

**Jacob Abel**, of Buffalo township, is one of the few pioneers who are still living on the original claim that they took in 1858. Although he is over eighty years of age, he and his good wife are still hale and hearty, and he is able to read ordinary type without the help of glasses. He has fought for his country's liberty, has helped develop a new country, and now in ripe old age he is reaping a full measure of honor and respect. Jacob Abel was born in Williamsberg, Germany, February 7, 1831, son of Jacob and Riga (Grouse) Abel. In the family there were five children, Jacob, Riga, David, Christ and Christina. Of these, Jacob, the subject of this sketch, was the only one who came to America. He came in 1854, being on the water forty-two days. About four years he lived in Ohio. In 1858 he came to Minnesota and secured a claim on section 15, Buffalo township. Here he endured all the hardships incident to pioneer life. The land was covered with timber and had to be cleared before crops could be raised. But he was enabled to secure a yoke of oxen, and soon he had a cabin built on the present location of the house. Provisions were scarce, and comforts were few. At times the only food was corn bread made from corn ground in a coffee mill. In 1862 and 1863 he was driven away by the fear of the Indians. After the Indian troubles were over the Civil war continued to rage, calls kept coming for men, and in 1864 he went to Ft. Snelling and enlisted in Co. B, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving until the close of the war. He was mustered out in Tennessee, June 26, 1865. Then he returned to his claim, where he has since resided. As time passed he added to his farm, buildings of modern construction were erected, and he became one of the substantial men of the community. He helped to build the Pelican lake church, served a long period as a school officer, and was town



JACOB ABEL AND FAMILY



supervisor for seven years. Mr. Abel was married in 1866 to Christina Erickson, born in Sweden, February 4, 1846, daughter of Swan and Anna Erickson, who came to America in 1850 with their family, and several years later located in Marysville, Wright county. Their children were Peter, Mary, Swan, Nels, Manuel. Mr. and Mrs. Abel have had ten children: John, Anna, William, and Christina. Christina did not come when the rest of the family did, but remained several years in Sweden and came later. Christina (deceased), Nels, George, Edward, Emma, Albert and Fritz.

**Willard Denney**, a leading farmer, living in section 27, Buffalo township, was born near Clinton, Mich., January 6, 1848, son of Amos and Emeline (Beckley) Denney, the pioneers, who in 1856 brought him to Rockford township, and in 1865 to Buffalo township, and located in section 26. He grew up on this place, and now owns a splendid farm in sections 26 and 27, seventy-two acres of which was in his father's homestead. He cleared most of this land, brought it under cultivation, and developed it to a high degree. His house and barns are substantial, and he is regarded as a desirable citizen in every respect. A pioneer himself, and the son of a pioneer, he has watched the county grow, and has taken his share in its progress and advancement. He remembers the days when he cleared the wild wood with an ox team, and he also knows of the privations and trials of pioneer times. When he now looks over his 272 acres of spreading farm lands he contrasts it with the view which met his eyes when he first came here, and he is thankful for the strength and energy which has enabled him to bring these conditions about. While he has devoted his attention largely to general farming, he has made a specialty of good grade swine and Shorthorn cattle, and he possesses a good thoroughbred bull. Being interested in education, Mr. Denney has served as a member of the school board of his district. He was married at the age of twenty-four years to Kate Elliott, of Rockford township, a daughter of John Elliott. Their children are: Alice, Florence, Mabel (deceased), Albert (deceased), Walter, William and Frank (deceased).

**Amos Denney**, pioneer, now deceased, was the son of a Revolutionary war veteran and was born in New York state. In that state he married Emeline Beckley, and shortly afterward moved to Michigan. From there they went to Illinois, and stayed about one and a half years. It was in 1856 that they started for Minnesota in a covered wagon, bringing their household goods, their stock, and their children, John, Mark, Celar, Willard, Anna, Lydia, Goodeth, Mary and Adaline. Two of these children, Mark and Celar, served in the Civil war, and the latter gave up his life on a southern battlefield. It was well toward the fall in 1856 when the family reached Rockford township and located on 160 acres



of wild land on the shores of Beebe lake. With the aid of his sons, Amos Denney put up a hewn log house, but it was burned before it was quite finished, and, somewhat discouraged, the family moved to the village of Rockford. Later they returned to the claim and put up another log house. Mr. Denney was a cooper by trade and secured considerable work in that line in Rockford and vicinity. At the outbreak of the Civil war he offered his services, but was rejected. After the war, he secured a homestead of 160 acres on Green Mountain lake in section 26, Buffalo township. Here he built a log cabin, cleared the land, and developed a good farm. A man of decided mechanical ability, he was fond of working about engines. This talent, however, cost him his life, for on February 14, 1878, an engine which he was repairing at Pelican lake exploded and killed him instantly. His widow died in 1914 at the good old age of ninety-three years.

**Charles P. Cotterell**, a successful farmer of section 18, Buffalo township, has one of the neatest places in the county. The sightly house is surrounded by a well-kept lawn, the buildings are of the most modern construction, and the farm land, fences, and implements everywhere testify to the thrift and taste of the owners. While comparatively new comers, the members of the family have taken their part in Wright county life, and none are more esteemed and respected than they. A native of Wisconsin, Mr. Cotterell was born in Mineral Point, Dodge county, July 5, 1850, a son of Richard Cotterell and his good wife. Richard Cotterell was a shoemaker by trade. He was born in England, and upon coming to this country located in Wisconsin. There his wife died, leaving him two small children, Sarah, now wife of Stephen Green, of Buffalo, and Charles P. After her death he brought his family to Olmsted county, Minnesota, where he farmed for many years and where he died at the age of seventy-six. By his second wife, he had four daughters and two sons. He was a most admirable man, and a prominent member of the Odd Fellows. Charles P. Cotterell was an infant of but one and a half years when he lost his mother. He was seven years old when he was brought to Olmsted county, this state. He was reared on a farm, and upon attaining young manhood secured a farm in Lyons county, also in this state. There he and his good wife, Isabella Crookshank, farmed for some thirty years. They were prominent people in their community and Mr. Cotterell served for some time as supervisor in Grand View township, in that county. It was in 1900 when they came to Buffalo township and located on the eighty acres which they now occupy. Here they made extensive improvements, and brought about its present pleasing appearance. Mr. Cotterell is now practically retired from active farm work. In the family there are four children:





LEVY ELLETSON AND FAMILY

Fannie, Frank, Elmer and Walter. Fannie is the wife of Rev. J. H. Sellie, of Buffalo.

**Levi Elletson**, himself a pioneer, represents the third generation of sturdy men who have helped develop Minnesota, and he in turn has raised a fourth generation of splendid children who will still further take their part in Minnesota's progress. The founders of the family, Job and Marie Elletson, were born in England. About 1836, stirred with noble endeavor, they set sail for the new world, and upon their arrival established for themselves a home in Canada. In his latter years, Job Elletson came to Minnesota, and located in Wabasha county, where he died. He was twice married and reared a large family. By his first marriage he had four children, Job, Frank, Elizabeth and Mary, and by his second marriage he had seven children, Albert, William, Daniel, George, Mariah, Mary and Hannah. Frank, the second son of this family, came to Wabasha county, Minnesota, in the early fifties, and there established for himself a home in the wilderness. But as the years passed he decided to venture still further into the wilderness. Accordingly, with his household goods and his family, he set out for Wright county in an old-fashioned wagon drawn by a pair of oxen. They passed through St. Paul, continued their journey, and in time reached Buffalo township, where they secured 160 acres in section 10. There was an old shack on the place, and into this the family moved. No roads led to the tract, thick woods covered all the neighborhood, no other settlers were near, and provisions were scarce. But they set at work with a will, clearing the land, getting in crops, putting up a log house, and preparing for the future. They were well on the road to prosperity when the Civil war opened. Fired with the zeal of patriotic enthusiasm, Frank Elletson listened to the call of duty and enlisted in Co. H, Fifth Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. For three years and six months he followed the fortunes of that regiment, proving himself in every way a loyal soldier. At the battle of Gettysburg he received a slight wound. Returning home after the war he again took up the duties of farm life. Gradually he developed the farm, and attained a substantial prosperity. In his latter years he joined the G. A. R. and he delighted in telling of his experiences in the war. He died July 9, 1898. By his good wife, Permle Prindle, he had three children, as follows: Fannie, May and Levi. Levi Elletson, the third child of this family, was born on the old homestead in Buffalo township, June 2, 1861. He assisted his father in developing the home farm, and now owns the place where he was born. To the original claim he has added 160 acres more. He is a successful farmer, and makes a specialty of blooded Hereford cattle. He also raised fine sheep and swine and a few horses. He has a pleasant modern home, and his well



tilled acres are very productive. While interested in public affairs and the intimate friend of many public men, Mr. Elletson has been too busy with his work to engage actively in political life. He has, however, taken a prominent part in fraternal matters, being a charter member of Buffalo Camp No. 3926, M. W. A., of Buffalo, and a member of Buffalo Lodge No. 141, I. O. O. F.; also the Encampment at Montrose. Mr. Elletson was married December 4, 1883, to Amanda J. Varner, born March 2, 1863, daughter of Henry Varner, the pioneer, who is elsewhere appropriately mentioned. Mr. and Mrs. Elletson are the parents of nine children, all of whom are living. They are: Annie E., born April 2, 1885; Henry V., born April 11, 1887; Miles Francis, April 9, 1889; James Adam, born April 27, 1891; Mark Eugene, October 8, 1893; Susan Edna, January 21, 1896; Reuben Wesley, September 18, 1899; Harry Golden, July 24, 1902; and Donald Morgan, February 6, 1905.

**Andrew N. Larson**, supervisor of Buffalo township, comes of one of the sturdy pioneer families, and as a boy knew what it was to endure the sufferings and privations of life in the wilderness in the early days. He was born in Sweden, September 25, 1856, son of Nels and Marie (Anderson) Larson. In 1866 the parents and the three boys, Louis, Nelson and Andrew N., left their native land, and embarked on a sailing vessel. After a long and tedious voyage of seven weeks, they reached Quebec, and from there went to Montreal, and thence to Detroit, Mich. They were poor, and just starting in life in a new world, but by doing such work as he could find along the way, the father managed to get his family to the Mississippi river, where they took a boat to St. Paul. From there they went to Carver county, where the father worked in the woods during the winter of 1866-67. In the spring of 1867, the family came by team to Wright county, where the father secured employment on the railroad. Later in the spring, the mother left the son, Louis, with his uncle, Nels Anderson, and walked with her other sons, Nelson and Andrew N., back to Carver county, shearing sheep and working by the day to earn a little ready cash. After the railroad came through, the father secured forty acres of land in section 32, Buffalo township, and the family settled thereon. They first built a log shack, with a flat roof, sloping enough in one direction to partially shed the water. Later they erected a log cabin with a gable roof. With an ox team they began to clear the land, and in time had a well cultivated farm. Nels Larson was born June 10, 1826, and died March 5, 1914. He was a deacon in the Lutheran church. His wife died about 1902. Andrew N., the son, was reared on the home farm. After leaving his father's place he purchased 120 acres in sections 27 and 28, Buffalo township, eighty acres being on the west side. He cleared

off the woods, cleaned out the stumps and by hard labor brought the land under cultivation. After his marriage he and his wife lived in a log granary until they put up the house. Later, from time to time, a full set of buildings was erected. Mr. Larson is a Progressive in politics, having formerly been a Republican. He has been a delegate to numerous conventions, and has served for some time in his present position as township supervisor. He is a school officer of district 24, a trustee of the Lutheran church, and a shareholder in the Buffalo Co-operative Creamery. As a young man Mr. Larson married Christina Anderson, now deceased. She left three children, Malinda, Lambert and Nimrod. The present Mrs. Larson was formerly Lena Olson.

**Conrad Link**, a substantial farmer of section 10, Buffalo township, was born in New York city, May 24, 1853, a son of John and Mary Link, who were born in Germany, came to America on the same ship, and were married in New York city. After living in that city a year they moved to Marion, Ohio. In 1856 they came to Wright county and secured 120 acres in section 10, Buffalo township. This tract was located in a stretch of wild woods. They erected a log cabin, and with the help of an ox team cleared enough land to put in the first crops. It was two years before they were able to buy a cow. Even then the dairy business presented many difficulties. At one time the father walked to St. Michaels with twenty pounds of butter and traded it for a three-tinned hay fork. Many traditions of the early days are related by the family. The old log cabin stood across the street from the present residence. Near it is the site of the field where the father raised potatoes by planting them in the unplowed ground and then cultivating around them. The hoe with which he did this work is still preserved. When the Indian uprising came, and the settlers fled, leaving their goods, stock and crops, he still stuck to his little place. The Indians did not come and no harm befell him. As the years passed the family prospered. Their efforts made possible the Pelican Lake Methodist Episcopal church, for the land for the church and cemetery were given by the son, Conrad, while a good deal of the work on the building was done by the father, John. John Link died November 22, 1891, and his wife August 22, 1887. The children in the family were Conrad, John, Jr., Louise and Caroline. Conrad came with his parents as a baby from New York city to Marion, Ohio, and from Marion to Buffalo township. He attended the schools of the neighborhood, and as he grew to manhood gradually assumed the duties of the home farm. He did his share in the developing of the home place, and on the part which he now owns he has made many modern improvements. He is a hard-working progressive man, the worthy son of a worthy father, and he is one of those people who are called the backbone of the nation, for

aside from assisting in the development of the country, he has reared a splendid family of children, who have good pioneer blood on both sides of the family tree. Mr. Link married Mary Dorf, born in St. Paul, daughter of Carl Dorf, an early settler of Buffalo township. They have ten children: Mary, John, August, Harry, Mamie, Lillian, Lawrence, Elsie, Irene and Clarence, all of whom are living. Mr. Link has served on the town board and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Pelican Lake.

**August C. Flamant**, the pioneer, was born in Laisne, France, April 18, 1824. In July, 1845, he was married to Catherine Victoria Martin. On October 31, 1851, they sailed for America, crossing the Atlantic, and reaching St. Louis by coming up the Mississippi via New Orleans. From there they went to Highland, Madison county, Illinois, where they engaged in farming. Of their four children, two died in infancy. In the spring of 1862, Mr. and Mrs. Flamant, with their two children, a son and a daughter, moved to St. Paul, where they lived for four months. July 4, 1862, they reached Buffalo, this county, and settled on a homestead in Marysville township, Wright county. Some twenty-nine days later the first Indian outbreak occurred. Mr. Flamant took his family to Elk River, but he and Frederick Fletcher returned to the homestead and remained during the Indian troubles. In 1863, when the outbreak was renewed the family again went to Elk River. It is interesting to note that after the Dustin massacre Mr. Flamant and Mr. Fletcher walked six miles through the dense woods to Waverly Mills and saw Mrs. Dustin, who had been pierced through the breast by an arrow. But these exciting times passed, and with the years the Flamants were enabled to develop their place in peace, bringing it from a wilderness to a profitable farm. August Flamant now lives with his son Emil. His wife, who was born July 10, 1819, died in 1903. The daughter, Mrs. Josephine Gerard, died in 1898.

**Emil Flamant**, who owns a beautiful farm on the shores of Lake Pulaski, in Buffalo township, was born in Highland, Madison county, Illinois, April 12, 1858, son of August C. and Catherine Victoria (Martin) Flamant. He was educated in the district schools and learned farming from his father. As a young man he purchased eighty acres of wild land in Marysville township, adjoining his father's. Like his father before him he had his experience in clearing and developing the timber country. In doing this he used oxen, five of six yoke of which he "broke" and trained himself. While occupied with his own affairs he also took an interest in the progress of the neighborhood, and being a friend of education he served for some time as clerk of district No. 25. In April, 1899, he sold his farm and bought eighty acres of land in section 20, Buffalo township, on the banks of Lake Pulaski, and here he now resides. His home is sur-



EMIL FLAMANT





rounded with park-like grounds, while the farm, on which he has made many improvements, is well cultivated and productive. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of raising good stock. Mr. Flamant married Mary Christina Johnson, a native of Sweden, the daughter of John Johnson. They have four children. Alice Mabel died in infancy. Helen Mabel is teaching school. Arthur Emil Richard is at home on the farm. Edgar is assistant cashier and stenographer in a bank at Mah-nomen, Minn.

**Robert Leeson**, son of John and Elizabeth Leeson, was born in Canada May 24, 1857, and in 1861 came with his parents to Buffalo, where the family, then consisting of his father and mother, an older brother, Richard, and younger sister, Eliza, settled on a claim taken up by the father in the deep woods. Along towards the close of the Civil War, John Leeson, the father, entered the Union army, leaving the family on the claim, where young Robert and his brother Richard assisted their mother in the cultivation of the cleared land. Times were hard and the family suffered great hardships. Indians were in the country at that time, and were a constant menace to the settlers, who were few and far between, and many times young Robert's hair was made to stand on end by his meeting Indians in the thick woods. At that time the most of the men were in the army, and the women folks sometimes received warning that the Indians were on the warpath, when they, with the children, would go to the fort, which was built where the village of Buffalo is now situated. Robert Leeson was married March 17, 1896, to Annie Fretag, and four children have been born to them, three of whom are still living, viz.: Marie Gladdis Leeson, aged 17; Alma Leeson, 14 years of age, and Margaret Leeson, two years of age. Mr. Leeson has been farming all his life and is now the owner of a well improved farm of eighty acres in the township of Buffalo, upon which he resides with his family and which he successfully cultivates. He is also the owner of an undivided interest in another 160-acre farm owned by his father at the time of his death. Mr. Leeson is a successful and well to do farmer, and is a Republican in politics.

**John Leeson.** In the middle of the past century there were living in Ireland two worthy families named Leeson and Wren. The Leeson family consisted of the parents, John Leeson, Sr., and his wife Elizabeth, and seven children, William, John, Richard, Joseph, Sarah, Maria and Eliza. The Wren family consisted of the parents, Robert and Mary Ann (Thompson) Wren, and two daughters, Jane and Elizabeth. Later, in Canada, two sons, Thomas and Robert, were born to the Wren family. Suffering under the various injustices to which Ireland was at that day subjected, the two families moved to Canada. At that

time they were not acquainted. John Leeson, Sr., died on board ship, but his widow and children continued the journey. In Canada the son John, the subject of this mention, met and won Elizabeth Wren. In 1860 or 1861 John and Elizabeth (Wren) Leeson left Canada with their three children, Richard, Robert and Eliza, and after a long and tiresome trip reached Buffalo township, in Wright county, where they took a claim in the deep woods. They erected a log cabin, and with an ox team prepared the land for cultivation. Times were hard, provisions were scarce, and Mr. Leeson often had to walk many miles to get a sack of meal. During these trips his worthy wife was often left alone. At one time, when every one except her was away from home, Mrs. Leeson saw a savage bear approaching the little clearing about the cabin. The bear took away the only pig they possessed, and then returned and made his way toward the cabin. Mrs. Leeson took her bed and went to the hole under the cabin, where she stayed until her husband returned. One day when she was churning, word came that the Indians were in the neighborhood, and leaving the partly-churned butter in the bowl she fled with the rest, remaining away until the danger had passed. The Civil War was now raging and repeated calls came for men to defend the Union. In the latter part of the conflict Mr. Leeson enlisted in Company B, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the conflict. After the war he again took up the work of developing his farm, and with the years he attained prosperity, wresting a well-cultivated place from the wilderness. He made his home on the homestead until his lamented death, in May, 1896, at the age of seventy-six years and six months. His widow, who was born March 2, 1831, now lives in the village of Buffalo. Mr. Leeson was a Republican in politics, and held the office of assessor of Buffalo township for many years. He was a member of the Methodist church and of the G. A. R. A good, true man in every respect, he was highly regarded for his many sterling qualities.

**Gilbert Middagh**, proprietor of Cedar Grove Farm, section 5, Buffalo township, is one of the leading farmers of the county. He was born in Mountain township, the province of Ontario, Canada, October 26, 1851, son of Gilbert Middagh, Sr., and Anna (Loueks) Middagh, his wife. He came with his parents to Iowa in 1865 and to Minnesota in 1868. As a young man he took up farming on a forty-acre tract near his parents' home in Winsted, Minn. With the help of an ox team he cleared this tract and brought it under cultivation. In 1901 he sold out and bought eighty acres of land in section 5, Buffalo township. This place was partly improved, but Mr. Middagh has developed it still further and erected some sightly buildings. He has been very successful, and carries on general farming and raises good grade

stock. Mr. Middagh was married December 19, 1879, at Howard Lake, this county, to Sarah J. James, born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, August 18, 1858, daughter of Edward and Jane (Kinch) James. To this union have been born nine children: Mary, born September 2, 1880, died December 13, 1891; Gilbert, born August 2, 1882; Ira, born, November 14, 1884; Nettie, born September 10, 1886, died January 2, 1888; Ezra, born December 20, 1890, died in February, 1891; Morgan, born April 3, 1892; Ralph, born May 12, 1893; Earl, born September 12, 1897, and Pearl, born August 24, 1903. Edward and Jane (Kinch) James were both natives of Canada, their parents having come to that country from Ireland. They came to the United States about 1868 and located in St. Paul. Then they went to Howard Lake, Victor township, in this county, and farmed several years. Next they took a farm in Monticello township, near Pelican lake, where they spent the remainder of their days, Edward James dying September 13, 1914, at the age of eighty-two, and his wife October 15, 1909, at the age of seventy-five. Their children were Sarah J., William E., Albert B., Elizabeth A. (deceased), Mary R., Isaac E. and Henry M. Edward James was the son of William and Elizabeth (Chanley) James. The family combines both Irish and Scottish blood. John and Mary (Grauberger) Middagh were both natives of Holland, but were married in Canada, to which country they came as children. Their children were Harry, Gilbert (Sr.), John, Sarah and Elizabeth. Jacob and Jemima Loucks were also born in Holland and came to Canada as young people. Their children were Michael, Charles, Jacob, Eliza, Anna, Jemina, George, Mary and Sarah. Gilbert Middagh, Sr., was born on the banks of the Mohawk river in Canada, May 31, 1811. He worked as a farmer and as a blacksmith and was on the road to success when he joined in the Fenian uprising. As a result he was forced to flee to the United States in 1865. For a time he lived in Iowa, but in 1868 came to Minnesota and located on a farm near Winsted, where he spent the remainder of his days. He died in 1881. His wife, Anna Loucks, was born in the Province of Ontario, Canada, in August, 1819, and died in 1901 at the age of ninety-one. Their children were: John, Rachael, Sarah, Jacob, Mary, Gilbert, Anna, Elizabeth, Dinah and Lucy.

**Henry Ordorff**, an honored pioneer of Buffalo township, now deceased, was born in Westphalia, Germany, November 27, 1832, a son of Reinhold and Mary Ordorff, who spent the span of their years on a farm in Germany. In the family there were two sons, Henry and Fred. Henry grew to manhood in Germany, and on April 26, 1885, was married to Margaretha Wieben, who was born September 27, 1839, daughter of Jacob and Margaretha (Petersen) Wieben, also Germany farmers. In the Wieben family there were ten children: Margaretha, Hans,



Christina, Marie, Catherina (deceased), Catherina, Johan, Anna, Dorris and Sophia. Margaretha, as mentioned, married Henry Ordorff; Hans resides in Germany; Christina is now Mrs. Koch of Germany; Marie married Fred Ordorff and after her death her husband married her sister, Dorris; Catherina is now Mrs. Petersen, of Iowa; Johan came to America but later returned to Germany, where he died; Anna married Henry Hennerson, and they live in Germany; Sophia married Cornelius Hansen, of Osseo. In 1868, Henry Ordorff with his wife and daughter Mary, and Fred Ordorff with his wife and daughter Mary, reached New York after a sailing voyage of eleven days. From New York by long tedious ways they reached St. Paul. From there they went to St. Anthony and took a boat for Monticello. After looking about for a while, Henry Ordorff bought 160 acres of land in section 15, Buffalo township. The purchase was made from a Mr. Bodems, who had built a small shack on the place, but had done no clearing. Into this shack Henry Ordorff moved his family, and with an ox team began to clear the land. A few years later he built a log house and a log barn. Year by year he toiled and gradually the place began to assume something of its present aspect. To the original tract he added another 152 acres, and this he developed as fully as the other. In time the log cabin was remodeled into a modern and substantial dwelling, surrounded by a sightly windbreak of pine trees. The log barn has been replaced with a large barn, 40 by 70 feet with a basement, a three-story granary with a basement and other buildings. There has been a vast outlay of time and money on the place. There are tool sheds, workshops and a blacksmith shop, equipped with a full line of tools for blacksmith and carpenter work. The implements and machinery on the place are kept in the best of repair, and assistance is also rendered to the neighbors. A walk through the buildings and over the grounds shows the place to be admirably equipped for modern farming along the latest approved methods. Since Mr. Ordorff's death in 1902, at the age of seventy-two, the place has been operated by his sons. With all his busy life, Mr. Ordorff found time for church and school work. The first Lutheran meeting in this vicinity was held at his home; he helped to build the first church of that faith in this vicinity and was one of its trustees. He was a good man, thoroughly respected by his associates. There were six children in the family: Mary, born April 23, 1866; Christina, born February 14, 1880; Henry C., August 22, 1871; Christolf, died in infancy; Theadore (first), died in infancy, and Theadore, who was born August 25, 1877, and married Lena Hartfield September 24, 1914. Henry and Theadore were born on the home farm, educated in the district schools, reared to farm pursuits, and have always remained at home, being among the successful young men of the township.

**Burton Prestidge**, the capable superintendent of the Wright county farm, was born in Rockford township, this county, May 5, 1874, son of the pioneer, Thomas Prestidge, appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. He was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood, and at the Rockford High school. For some years he followed farming in Marysville township, and for a time he was in the livery business in Montrose. It was in 1911 that the county commissioners selected him for his present position, and he has more than proven his worth and ability. Everything about the farm and buildings is kept in the best of condition; he makes the most of the land given him to operate; he is considerate to the inmates placed in his charge, and all in all has demonstrated his value to the county. Mr. Prestidge was married October 17, 1912, to Mamie Hunt, daughter of Joseph Hunt. By a previous marriage she has one son, Joseph. The Wright county farm consists of fifty-six acres of good land on the shores of Lake Constance. The house is thoroughly modern, and contains sixteen rooms, aside from the bath rooms, halls and the like. There is a good water system, and everything possible is done for the comfort of the wards of the county who are here sheltered and cared for. Mr. and Mrs. Burton Prestidge, who are in charge of the place, have an average of from twelve to eighteen people in their charge.

**Traugott Schmidt**, a pioneer of Buffalo township, was born in Dorgru, Germany, and was there reared. About 1858 he came to the United States and secured employment in Chicago. It was in 1860 that he came to Wright county and took a homestead of 160 acres in section 25, Buffalo township. The tract was all wild land, and Traugott set at work with a will to bring it under cultivation. The first two years were especially hard. He had no oxen and no means of conveyance, so he had to walk to Minneapolis whenever he needed provisions, bringing the supplies home on his back. Later he was enabled to secure supplies in Rockford, and by the time he had prospered sufficiently to purchase a pair of oxen conditions were a little better. About this time he married Marguerite Herman, who had been born in Germany, October 13, 1835. The young lady had come to St. Michaels to join her brother Valentine Herman, and here she met her future husband. Valentine Herman was an extensive traveler and before settling in St. Michaels had seen life in many lands, including Australia and the gold fields of California and Colorado. Not long after their marriage Traugott Schmidt enlisted in Company K, Fifth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war. His good wife had her full share of pioneer hardships, and while her husband was fighting his country's battles at the front she often picked gooseberries and blackberries, and putting them in three-gallon pails trudged to Monti-

cello, where she exchanged them for groceries. When Mr. Schmidt returned he again took up farm labor. He was an honest, hardworking, industrious man, and in time acquired sufficient land so that he owned in all 600 acres. Faithful to church duties, he helped to build the Lutheran church in his neighborhood and was one of its trustees. He also served for a long period as clerk of his school district. He died in 1907, at the age of eighty-two. His good wife died May 15, 1903. Their children were: William, Rheinhold, Oscar, Emil, Johanna, Denna and Henry.

**Henry Schmidt**, a progressive young farmer of section 25, Buffalo township, was born on the old homestead, July 31, 1874, son of Traugott and Marguerite (Herman) Schmidt, the pioneers. He was educated in the district school of which his father was clerk, attended the Lutheran church of which his father was trustee, and grew to manhood on the farm. He has part of his father's homestead on the shores of Green Mountain lake, has a modern home and buildings, and a good equipment of machinery and tools, and is regarded as a successful man in every way. For some thirty years past he and his brothers have operated a threshing machine. He married Johanna Schumacher, who was born in Wright county, December 13, 1877, daughter of William Edward and Emma (Scheer) Schumacher, natives of Germany and pioneers of Wright county. William Edward Schumacher was a pioneer of Company E, First Regiment Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have three children: Raymond, Almond and Melvin.

**Lafayette Varner**, now deceased, a pioneer of Buffalo township, and a veteran of the Civil war, was born in Pennsylvania, April 10, 1841, a son of John and Mary (Bitts) Varner, who are appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. Lafayette Varner spent his youth and early manhood on a farm in his native state. At the outbreak of hostilities between the North and the South he enlisted in the dashing Co. K, of the Fourth Pennsylvania Cavalry, and served with valor throughout the war. In the spring of 1856 he came to Minnesota, arriving in Wright county May 15. After looking about for a time, he purchased eighty acres of land from James Washburn in section 18, and with an ox team started to carve his fortunes in the wilderness. In July his wife and her brother, William Hickman, came to the little pioneer home. Times were hard, but by dint of faithful work, Lafayette Varner and his wife prospered. They labored early and late, and in time success crowned their efforts. Mrs. Varner, who is a typical pioneer woman, has many memories of the troubles and trials they faced together. Money was scarce, comforts and conveniences were few, there was a family to rear and send to school, and little time for rest or recreation. Mr.

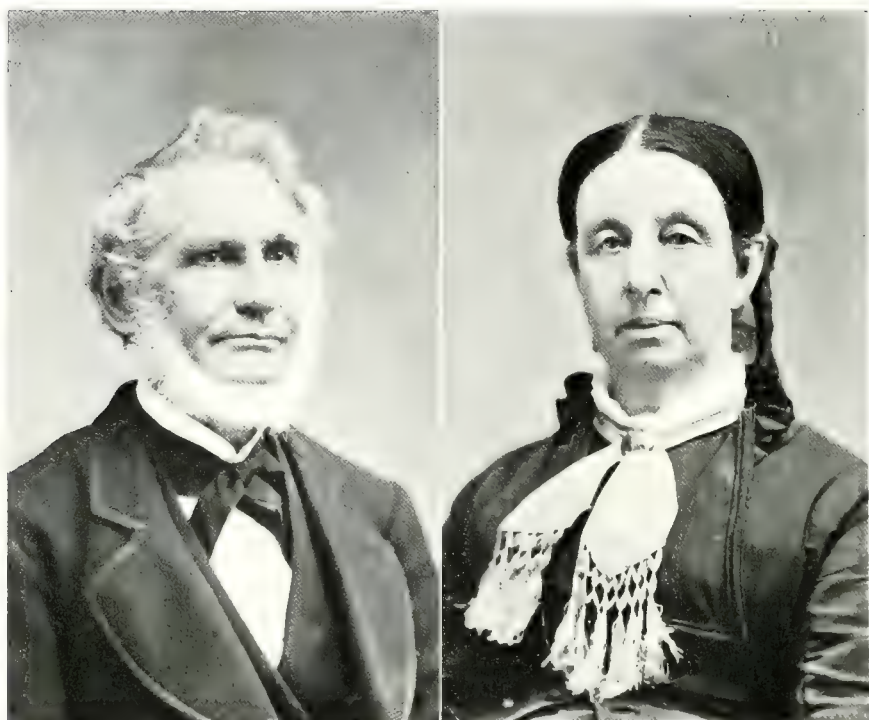


MR. AND MRS. LAFAYETTE VARNER









MR. AND MRS. OCTAVIUS LONGWORTH

Varner became a substantial member of the community. He served in town and school office, and was a well-liked member of the G. A. R. post at Buffalo, as well as of the Odd Fellow lodge there. His death, June 2, 1909, was sincerely mourned. Lafayette Varner was married February 5, 1860, to Christina Hickman, born March 20, 1842, daughter of William and Sarah (Stover) Hickman, natives of Pennsylvania, the former being a veteran of the Civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Varner had nine children: Solomon, born June 19, 1863; Sarah Ida and Mary Ida, twins, born May 8, 1866; James F., born August 31, 1869, died October 1, 1887; Maude, born February 15, 1873; Etta Jane, born June 27, 1874; Marie, born April 9, 1878; Zachary Taylor, born September 29, 1879; Newton, born February 26, 1884.

**Octavius Longworth**, an estimable and highly respected citizen of Corinna township, was born in New York city, March 22, 1805. He came of an old New York family. His father was a prominent publisher of that day, his residence and publishing house being opposite the old Astor home and City Hall park, the latter being called "The Shakespeare Gallery." On December 30, 1830, he was married to Miss Phebe Dean Wade, daughter of Col. John and Sarah Lyon Wade of Springfield, N. J. Mr. Longworth was a man of literary taste and for many years had a book and stationery store in Brooklyn; he was also postmaster of that city for several years. He had heard much of the northwest, and being fired with the spirit of his colonial ancestors, he determined to have his part in subduing the wilderness and in building up the country. Accordingly, in the spring of 1856, he, with his wife and children, a brother and his family, twenty-one in all, and twenty-two trunks, arrived in Davenport, Iowa. As is usual in such cases, where experience in farm life is entirely lacking, failure was the result. After seriously considering whether to move to Minnesota or Cincinnati, Ohio, where his cousin Nicholas Longworth resided, Minnesota won and on May 6, 1859, the family arrived in what was then Clearwater, but now Corinna. They located on Clearwater Lake, the present site of "Longworth," the famous summer resort, kept for many years by the family, the last fifteen years of which by the youngest daughter, Jennie, but now by Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Tuelle. Mr. and Mrs. Longworth were true pioneers. There were only five families within a radius of five or six miles. They settled in the woods, a log cabin was erected, and a clearing made with the assistance of a yoke of oxen. The first crop was put in between the stumps. Times were hard, money scarce and provisions hard to obtain; the hardships were many and comforts were few. Fortunately, about this time the ginseng buyers came along and by digging the roots, which were plentiful, the family were able to earn some ready cash. Then when prospects began to brighten, the Civil war



broke out and the two older sons enlisted, the eldest one serving till the close of the war, the other one dying as soon as he reached the south. Thus the mainstays of the family were taken away, as the other two sons were very young. As the years passed, however, the family became more prosperous. They saw the county develop and they did their share by improving their farm. Good buildings took the place of log structures, and neatly fenced, well tilled lands took the place of the virgin forests. Mr. Longworth was a public spirited man and his influence and wise counsels did much in the early days of Corinna. He was active in organizing the township of Delhi, now Corinna. The summer resort business started by admitting an invalid gentleman and his wife into the home circle for a few weeks. From this on the business grew until the place became most popular. A small Episcopal church was erected on land given by Mr. Longworth, by eastern friends, who thus remembered the family so removed from all church privileges, and until the time of his death, March, 1889, Mr. Longworth was lay reader in the little church. Mrs. Longworth was much beloved by all who knew her, always to be found by the bedside of the sick and the dying, helpful when a physician could not be secured, to her family, only what such a wife and mother can be. She died August 19, 1893. Of the family, only three remain, Mrs. Sarah W. L. Smith of Clearwater, and Octavius and Jennie W. Octavius, Jr., was a boy of nine years when he was brought from the city to take up his residence in the wilds. He was reared on the home farm, learned farm pursuits and attended the district school, though the greater part of his education was received from his father. He now lives near the old homestead, and is engaged in farming. He has never married and his sister Jennie keeps house for him. The worthy son of a worthy father, a man whose first thought is ever for the good of the community—he has taken his part in every movement that has meant progress. For some twenty years he has been treasurer of the township and for four years he served on the town board. He has also been a member of numerous committees and delegations.

**Anthony L. Henneman** was born in section 11, Corinna township, April 10, 1875. He remained at home until attaining his majority, and then started working for the neighbors. In 1902 he entered the employ of William Reip, in the meat business at Annandale. In 1904 he engaged in a similar line in Minneapolis. From 1906 to 1908 he did farm work in Wright county. In 1908 he rented the farm of Charles Matthew, in section 20, Corinna township, for three years. For nine months in the spring and summer of 1912 he engaged in the grocery and confectionery business in Annandale. Then he rented a farm from Martin Ranson, in section 19, Corinna township. On this place he still

resides, and successfully conducts general farming. He raises Shorthorn cattle, Duroc-Jersey swine, Rhode Island Red fowls and Bronze turkeys. Anthony L. Henneman was married March 21, 1906, to Martha Klemz, daughter of August and Lena (Peske) Klemz, farmers of Corinna township. The father died in 1887 and the mother in 1907. Mr. and Mrs. Henneman have two bright sons, Richard L. and Earl J.

**Benne Rozenberg**, an enterprising farmer of Corinna township, was born in Paterson, N. J., June 18, 1869, son of Henry and Dirky (Dykhausen) Rozenberg, who had come to America the previous year, and in 1873 moved to Pella, Iowa, where they still live. Benjamin Rozenberg received a good education in the schools of his neighborhood, and for several years worked out as a farm employe in the vicinity of Pella, Iowa. Then he rented various farms in Marion county, the county in which Pella is located. It was in 1908 that he came to Wright county and bought 120 acres of land in sections 13 and 14, Corinna township, where he now resides. He has brought his characteristic energy to bear upon the problems of farm life, and success in abundant measure has crowned his efforts. He has remodeled and repainted the house, and has built a splendid new barn. This barn is 36 by 60 feet, with a basement, equipped with eighteen patent stanchions, a litter carrier, and other conveniences. The capacity is thirty-five cattle, eight horses and sixty tons of hay. Mr. Rozenberg carries on general farming and makes a specialty of Shorthorn cattle. While living in Iowa, Mr. Rozenberg served as a member of the school board. Mr. Rozenberg was married March 9, 1896, to Jennie Hulleman, daughter of Rick and Henrietta (Mol) Hulleman, who lived on a farm near Pella, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Rozenberg have six children: Henry, born December 3, 1896; Hattie, born September 20, 1898; Rick, born April 12, 1902; Dirk, born November 7, 1904; Albert, born April 26, 1911; and Mary, born March 7, 1914.

**George J. Parker**, a substantial farmer of Corinna township, was born in Dora, Ind., March 2, 1857, son of Jonah Parker, the carpenter, and Rachael (Rakestraw) Parker. George J. Parker started his career at the age of seven, when he received ten cents a day as helper to a gardener. When he was eight years old he was earning \$8 a month driving a team. He also earned money during his boyhood by trapping ground hogs and other small animals. As a youth he worked five years with a ditching crew. It was in 1879 that he left Indiana and located in Olmsted county, this state, where he remained about a year. At the end of this period he married and went back to Indiana. Since 1881 he has lived in this state permanently. In that year he again came to Minnesota. For four years he rented farms in Olmsted county, and then he lived three years in the city of Rochester in the same

county. The next eight years of his life were spent on a rented stock farm near Taopi, in Mower county, this state. In 1896 he bought 160 acres in section 9, Clayton township, in the same county. Six years later, in 1902, he sold out and came to Wright county, where he purchased 160 acres in section 9, Corinna township. On this place he still resides. He successfully carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of Blue Stem wheat, Chester White swine and dairy cattle. He is grading his stock into Shorthorns, and is much pleased with the results. Although he is comparatively a new comer, he is a well-known man, and has served as school treasurer and as town supervisor. He was likewise a member of the school board of his district in Mower county. He and his wife attend the Disciple church. Mr. Parker was married September 2, 1880, to Lucinda Campbell, daughter of Stirling and Roukamma (Badgley) Campbell, the former of whom was a veteran of the Sioux uprising, having served in Co. D, Brackett's Battalion, Independent Cavalry, eighteen months, from December, 1862. Mr. and Mrs. Parker have had two children: Harry, born August 14, 1882, and Ethel L., born September 8, 1896. Harry was married December 21, 1904, to Bertha Schuman, daughter of William and Minnie Schuman, and they have three children, Howard M., Ruth L. and George M.

**Henry Ransom**, an enterprising and successful resident of Corinna township, was born in section 20, in the township where he still lives, October 21, 1868, son of Martin and Minnie (Teatz) Ransom, the pioneers. He received his early education in the public schools, and in 1889 graduated from the German Methodist Episcopal College at St. Paul Park, Minn. Thus prepared, he taught country school for two years, 1890 and 1891. In 1892 and 1893, in order to still further perfect his training, he attended the St. Cloud State Normal School. In the fall of 1893 he taught country school. He gained wide experience with the country in 1894 and 1895 by traveling extensively in Montana, Oregon, Washington and California. This journey completed, he returned to Minnesota, and taught school and worked on his father's farm from 1895 to 1898. It was in 1899 that he bought his present place of 148 acres in section 17, Corinna township. He has one of the best farms in this part of the township. His wide education makes him a valuable citizen, he is a profound student of farm conditions, and conducts his farm operations along the latest approved lines. His well-tilled fields, his neat fences, his sleek well-kept live stock, his excellent equipment, and his sightly buildings all bespeak the thrift, hard work and intelligent care of the owner. Since 1907, Mr. Ransom has been town clerk, and for one year he served on the town board. Henry Ransom was married in 1899 to Mary Lyrenmann, born in Monticello, this county, December 9, 1869, daughter of Felix and Rosina (Hunig)



Lyrenmann, who came from Switzerland in 1869, and located on a farm near Monticello. Mrs. Ransom is a lady of many accomplishments, and before her marriage taught school for several years in Wright county and in South Dakota. Mr. and Mrs. Ransom have four children: Esther E., born in 1900; Marjorie, born in 1901; Lyman, born in 1905; and Robert, born in 1910. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**John A. Ferguson**, an influential citizen of Corinna township, was born in section 36, Silver Creek township, January 10, 1862, son of Henry and Letitia (Campbell) Ferguson, the pioneers. Henry Ferguson was born January 14, 1826, in London township, Province of Ontario, Canada. May 7, 1855, he arrived at Big Bend, in Sherburne county, Minnesota. At the time of his arrival there some seven hundred Chippewa Indians were gathered at the trading post of Asa White, whose wife was herself of Chippewa blood. From White's, Mr. Ferguson followed an Indian trail to what is now section 32, in Silver Creek. Here he "squatted" and staked out a claim of 160 acres. On this claim, on December 23, 1855, was born Richard T. Ferguson, the first white male child born in the town of Silver Creek. Henry Ferguson was one who suffered in the Indian raid of August, 1862, the details of which are related elsewhere. These Indians stole horses from the Ferguson claim, and were pursued by a detachment of soldiers under Captain John S. Cady, of the Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. This is the Captain Cady who, on June 11, 1863, was shot and killed near Lake Elizabeth, in Kandiyohi county, by three Indians, whose real identity is unknown, but who are sometimes said by old settlers to have been Little Crow, his son, the Appearing One, and his son-in-law, Hinkpa. During the Indian pursuit in 1862, Captain Cady stopped at the Ferguson cabin, and became well acquainted with the members of the family. During the pioneer days, the Fergusons suffered many privations. They had severe losses from Indians and grasshoppers, and frontier life was beset with many difficulties. But in time they prospered and became leading members of the community. Mr. Ferguson died November 3, 1912. Mrs. Ferguson was born November 3, 1830, in Middlesex township, Ontario, and died July 26, 1895.

John A. Ferguson was born in a log cabin, and as he grew to manhood saw the country gradually develop. He attended the district schools and was reared to farm pursuits. Until he was twenty-three he remained with his parents and then he started out for himself. For many years he was employed on farms, in the woods and on the rivers. In 1891 he determined to settle down to farming. Accordingly he purchased eighty acres of land in section 19, Silver Creek township, and there lived until 1907. In the meantime he had increased his holdings to 160



acres. After selling this tract he bought seventeen acres in section 19, Corinna township, where he now lives. Aside from his farm property, he has several business holdings, including stock in the Citizens State Bank of Annandale, of which he is vice president. From 1900 to 1907 he was president of the Silver Creek Dairy Association. As a raiser of high class stock he has been especially active. All his stock is well bred, and his horses include a registered Percheron colt. In 1902 he shipped the first lot of Wright county Poland China swine to the State Fair at Hamline, and in 1906 his swine won the first premium in the six-months class. From 1900 to 1904, Mr. Ferguson was a member of the County Board of Commissioners. From 1891 to 1907 he was clerk of school district 16. He is Worshipful Master of Fair Haven Lodge, No. 182, A. F. and A. M., of Annandale. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. John A. Ferguson was married, January 5, 1892, to Katharine G. McKenzie, daughter of Donald and Katharine (Quig) McKenzie, natives of Canada, of Scotch descent, who came to Silver Creek in 1855, and located on section 18. Mr. and Mrs. Ferguson conduct a popular summer resort on the farm on the shores of Pleasant Lake. In 1911 they started their resort by building four cottages. The following year they built four more. They also have two good tents. The cottages accommodate four people and are equipped with provisions for light housekeeping. The resort is well located, is well patronized, and the number of applications for accommodations is constantly growing.

**Patrick B. Geary**, a respected farmer of Corinna township, was born in Ireland, January 17, 1839, son of Michael and Mary (Hogan) Geary, who in 1849 came to America, and located in Port Hope, Province of Ontario, Canada, sixty miles east of Toronto. Patrick B. was brought to this country when he was ten years of age, and grew to manhood on his parents' farm in Canada. It was about 1869 when he came to Minnesota and bought eighty acres of school land in section 36, Corinna township. This land was absolutely wild and was covered with elm, oak and basswood trees and a thick undergrowth of brush. He had \$55 in cash, and this he paid as an advance installment on his land. He erected a log house, cleared off the land, made the furniture on the place, and aside from an ax and a hoe got along as best he could without tools. For seven years he did not have a team of any sort. When he wanted help he worked two days in return for the services of a team and driver one day. He worked a whole day for a bushel of wheat with which to make bread. At one time he chopped off three acres of trees in order to obtain a heifer two and a half years old. When he finally owned a yoke of oxen they were ones that he had raised himself. He cut grain with a cradle and paid ten cents a bushel to have



MR. AND MRS. P. B. GEARY



it threshed. With this beginning Mr. Geary has achieved success. He developed the farm, erected good buildings, took an active part in the affairs of the community, and reared a splendid family of children. In 1910 Mr. Geary retired from hard labor, but still continues to live on the farm, which is in the corporate limits of Maple Lake. He has been assessor of Maple Lake village two years and treasurer one year. He has been clerk of the school board for twelve years. Mr. Geary was married November 7, 1872, to Margaret Gorman, a native of Canada. This union has been blessed with eleven children: Edmond, of Bruel, Wis.; John, of Bellingham, Wash.; William and Thomas, of Newport, Wash.; Matthew S. and Frederick B. on the home farm; Aloysius, of DuQuene, Penn.; Mary J. and Annie, both deceased; Johanna, now Mrs. C. W. Nelson, of Calgary, and Loretta, now Mrs. J. J. Ackerman, of Roxton, Sask. Marie and Mary Geary, twin daughters of J. V. Geary, have made their home with Mr. and Mrs. Patrick B. Geary since early childhood.

**Matthew P. Geary** was born on the homestead where he still lives, in section 36, Corinna township, August 8, 1878, son of Patrick B. and Margaret (Gorman) Geary. He attended the neighborhood schools and learned farming from his father. In 1898 he went to Kennan, Wis., and worked at carpenter work for two years. In 1900 he came home and operated the home farm for his father until 1910, when he purchased it. He is a successful man, and carries on general farming and stock raising along the latest approved lines.

**Frederick B. Geary** was born on the old homestead in section 36, Corinna township, son of Patrick B. and Margaret (Gorman) Geary. He was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools. At the age of nineteen he went to Bruel, Wis., where he clerked in a store for his brother Edmond. He has also engaged in steamboating on the Rainey river and in lumbering near International Falls. In 1913 he returned home and is assisting on the farm. Mr. Geary is a member of the Fraternal Orders of Eagles at Bayfield, Wis.

**Albert W. Klemz**, one of the energetic young men of Corinna township, was born on the old homestead in section 12, November 14, 1889. He attended the district schools, was reared to agricultural pursuits, and grew to manhood on his father's farm. In the fall of 1910 he started out for himself and purchased forty acres in section 12, near his father's place. He successfully carries on general farming, and pays particular attention to the raising of Holstein cattle, Poland-China swine and Rhode Island Red fowls. Mr. Klemz was married in 1910 and this union has been blessed with three children: Laura, born January 25, 1911; Irene, born July 18, 1912; Irma, June 10, 1914. The family faith is that of the German Lutheran church.



**Peter J. Dircks**, an active farmer of Corinna township, was born in Carver county, Minnesota, November 23, 1879, son of Peter and Theresa (Worm) Dircks, Hollanders. Peter Dircks located in Carver county, in this state, in 1860. There he went through the usual hardships and rigors of pioneer life. Supplies were scarce and there was little money. He had to bring flour from St. Paul to Chaska, on his back, the distance being thirty-five miles. After developing a good place in Carver county he came to Wright county in 1893, and bought eighty acres of land in section 13, Corinna township. There he successfully carried on general farming until 1912. Peter J. Dircks was reared on the home farm, and received his education in the schools of Wright and Carver counties. He left home in 1905 and located on the W. E. Reno farm in section 26, Corinna township. Here he still lives. He successfully carries on general farming, does considerable dairying, and makes a specialty of raising Poland-China swine. A well-educated, well-read man, he has taken an active interest in educational matters, and is now serving his third term as school director. He is a popular member of the Brotherhood of American Yeomen at Maple Lake. Mr. Dircks was married May 22, 1906, to Hattie Reno, daughter of William E. and Laura (Dillard) Reno, early settlers of Minneapolis, who settled on 120 acres in Corinna township in 1894. Mr. and Mrs. Dircks have two children: Ellsworth and Melvin, both at home.

**Anton Doering**, a scientific farmer of Corinna township, was born in Germany, October 31, 1853, son of Anton and Elizabeth (Feider) Doering. He was reared in his native country, and devoted his early years to farming there. In April, 1889, he started for America, and after a voyage of fourteen days landed in New York. He then came to Clearwater, this county, and in 1890 purchased sixty acres in section 36, Clearwater township. All this land he cleared and developed, living in the meantime in a rented house nearby. In 1896 he bought 100 acres in section 3, Corinna township, where he now lives. He cleared all of this land, erected buildings, and was on the high road to prosperity when the cyclone of 1897 destroyed all his buildings, wrecked all of his machinery, and killed much of his live stock. Undaunted by this disaster he started again, erected new buildings, purchased new machinery and equipment, bought live stock, and prepared to farm on a larger scale than before. He now carries on diversified agricultural operations and makes a specialty of raising Holstein cattle. One of the especially attractive features of his place is the new barn. It is 50 by 48 feet, with a cement basement. It was erected at a cost of \$2,000 and is fitted with all the latest appliances, including thirty patent stanchions and a litter carrier. The capacity is forty head of cattle, nine horses and seventy tons of hay. It is interesting to note that four tons

of cement, 25,000 feet of boards and 34,000 shingles were used in its construction. Mr. Doering was married February 19, 1883, to Rosa Lemke, daughter of John and Anna Lemke. Mr. and Mrs. Doering have had twelve children: August, Anthony, Paul, Albert, Theresa, Carl, Cecelia, Lucille, Emma, Hubert and two who died in infancy. August, Anthony and Paul were born in Germany. August and Paul are now in North Dakota. Theresa is in Minneapolis. The rest are at home. Cecelia graduated from the Annandale High school in the class of 1911. The family attends the Catholic church at Annandale.

**Arie Naaktgeboren**, a prosperous citizen of Corinna township, was born in Holland, November 18, 1865, son of Bastiaan and Margrietha (Romph) Naaktegeboren. Arie Naaktegeboren was reared in his native land and there grew to manhood. In 1892 he came to America and located near Firth, Neb., where he worked a year as a farm laborer. Then he rented eighty acres. The crops the first year lacked \$50 of paying the rental, and the following year conditions were worse. So in the spring of 1896 he had a public sale. Horses that would sell now for \$100 went for \$1 apiece. A valuable pony went for \$2, a blooded colt for \$6. In the meantime, in 1893, Mr. Naaktegeboren had been to school to learn the English language. Though nearly thirty years of age and wearing a heavy moustache, he went in classes with the little children, and in three months was able to listen to the English language with a fair degree of understanding. After his sale he worked three years on a farm near Sibley, Ia. Then he married. After his marriage he lived on a rented farm near Taintor, Ia., for a little less than three years. He paid \$3 an acre cash rent. Farm produce did not bring a big price in the market. Corn was sold for twenty-three cents a bushel, pork for three and a half cents a pound, eggs for six cents a dozen. In 1901 he went to Otley, Ia., where for six years he rented a 200-acre farm. It was in 1907 that he came to Wright county and bought eighty acres in section 12, Corinna township. The following year he bought 54 acres more, making in all a fine farm of 134 acres, on which he is still living. A small house and barn were standing on the place. In 1910 he put up a windmill, and in 1913 he remodeled the house. He has also erected a swine house and runs, and double corn cribs, 30 by 6 feet each, with a driveway in between. He has tilled all the low land and has met with success in his operations. Mr. Naaktegeboren was married April 6, 1898, at Pella, Ia., to Ella Hulleman, daughter of Ryk and Hendrika (Mol) Hulleman, retired farmers of Pella, Ia. To this union nine children have been born: Margaret, born January 29, 1899; Hattie, born January 15, 1900; Dirkie, born June 15, 1901; Ryk, born December 13, 1902; Bastiaan, born October 27, 1904; Jennie, born March 14, 1907 (died March 26, 1910);

Artie M., born August 29, 1908; Henry, born May 19, 1910; Arie, born June 4, 1912, and an unnamed infant born January 16, 1914, and died at the age of one day.

**Frederick S. Mears**, popular proprietor of the Cottage Grove Summer Resort, a high class summering place at the north end of Cedar lake, was born in Martin county, Indiana, September 27, 1841, son of Benjamin F. and Charlotte (Shoalts) Mears. The father was born in Pennsylvania and moved to Indiana about the time he attained his majority. The mother was born in Indiana. Frederick S. Mears was reared on the home farm, and attended the district schools. In August, 1861, not yet twenty years of age, he enlisted in the ranks of Company E, Twenty-seventh Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and served until mustered out in August, 1864. Among the battles in which he participated were: Cedar Mountain, Antietam, Second Bull Run, Second Winchester, Savage Station, Gettysburg, New Hope Church, Peach Tree Creek, Resacca, South Mountain, Buzzard Roost, Snake Creek Gap and others. After his return from the war he worked for his father some eighteen months. Then he married and started out for himself. Until 1881 he farmed in various places in Indiana. Then he came to Minnesota and for many years farmed in Rice and Steele counties. In 1888 he was in charge of the Steele county poor farm. It was in 1898 that he first located in Minneapolis. After a year there he went to Starbuck, Pope county, this state, and handled nursery stock for two years. Subsequently he returned to Minneapolis, and spent seven years there. It was in April, 1908, that he came to Wright county and purchased his present place in section 15. Mr. Mears is a member of Buzzell Post, No. 24, G. A. R., and passed through all the chairs of the I. O. O. F. lodge at Faribault, as well as serving with distinction as district deputy grand master. In 1914 he represented the G. A. R. at the state encampment. He and his family belong to the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Mears was married September 27, 1866, to America Spilman, daughter of Harvey and Mary (Mason) Spilman, who own a grocery store in Washington, Ind. In the family there have been three children. Charles B. is at home; Fred died in 1913, and Mary died in 1904. The Cottage Grove Summer Resort is one of the deservedly well-patronized summer places of the Northwest. It is situated on the north bank of the lake, where there are prevailing gentle winds, and where the view is especially interesting. The beach is unusually good for bathing, and the boating and fishing facilities are of the best, all the gamier fish common to this climate abounding in the waters of the lake. The proprietor has ten cottages, with twenty-two rooms, accommodating fifty people. The porches are screened, and the rooms are all well furnished. When the state hotel inspector examined



the place he declared that the cottages were in the best of condition, and that the sanitation was the best in its line that he had seen. The place is only five miles from Annandale and seven miles from Maple Lake. Its table is of the best, most of the food served being raised on the place. In the summer season the place is thronged and Mr. Mears cannot accommodate many of the people who apply.

**John B. Olson**, stock-fancier and prosperous citizen of Corinna township, was born in Sweden, June 6, 1858, son of Peter and Ingre (Lawson) Olson, who spent the span of their years as farmers in Sweden. At the age of fifteen, John B. Olson started out for himself as a farmhand. It was in 1881 that he came to America and located in Monroe Center, Ogle county, Illinois. In that vicinity he rented farms for twenty-six years. In 1905 he bought 240 acres in sections 18 and 19 in Corinna township, this county. He moved onto this land in 1907 and here he has since resided. He carries on general farming to a certain extent, but his great specialty is feeding cattle for the market. He buys in St. Paul and then ships to that point. His neighbors who have an opportunity for intimately observing his methods declare that his are the best animals that are sent to St. Paul. After long study he thoroughly favors a diet consisting of corn fodder in bundles, all the ensilage that the animals will eat, plenty of hay and considerable oil meal. He buys Herefords whenever he can get them, as he considers these the best feeders. As an example of what he accomplishes it may be remarked that while in Illinois he had a herd of Hereford cattle, which by judicious feeding were increased in weight from 1,207 pounds on October 7 to 1,660 pounds before February 15. Mr. Olson was married June 6, 1885, to Hannah Nelson, daughter of Nels Johnson and Inger Torkelson, of Skone, Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Olson have had ten children: Emma, now wife of Louis Erickson, of section 34, South Side; Ernest, who lives two miles south of Annandale; Edwin, Frederick; Jennie, who died in 1906 at the age of thirteen; Oscar, who died in 1892 at the age of five months, and George W., Ellen F., Albert and Roy. Mr. Olson is a splendid example of what a poor boy with grit and determination may accomplish in this country, even though without friends and with no influence. He landed at New York poor, friendless, alone, without anyone to help him, and with but seven cents in his pocket. He spent this money in paper and a stamp and wrote a letter home. Then without a cent he started out to seek his fortune. He now owns 393 acres, he is an influential citizen and is worth something like \$40,000, a truly notable record of worthy accomplishment.

**William Gordon** was born June 30, 1866, son of S. A. Gordon, and came to Wright county with his parents in 1870. He



received his education in the district schools, engaged in farming with his father, and in time took the management of the home farm, which he conducted until 1902, when he went to Big Forks, Itasca county, and took a homestead and where he now owns 320 acres of good land. He now lives, however, on the old farm in Corinna township, which is conducted by his son Bruce. He has served as constable and belongs to the M. W. A. Mr. Gordon was married September 18, 1882, to May Parsons, who died July 14, 1894, leaving three children. Bruce was born August 22, 1887, and conducts the old Gordon farm. He married Ella Rieger and they have one son, Russell, born May 6, 1914. Earl was born August 2, 1889, and conducts a farm in Corinna township. He married Alfreda Piesak and they have one son, Robert, born January 30, 1913. Marshall was born July 14, 1894, and died in February, 1895.

**Samuel A. Gordon**, now deceased, was for many years an honored resident of Corinna township. He was born in New York state, September 8, 1843, and died in Corinna township February 8, 1914. His father, Edward Gordon, devoted the greater part of his life to the lumber and sawmill business. Samuel A. Gorman lived a boyhood similar to other youngsters of his time and circumstances, and grew to sturdy manhood. May 20, 1861, when but seventeen years of age, he enlisted in Co. K, 11th Pennsylvania Reserves, under Captain E. R. Brady and Col. T. F. Gallagher. The regiment was assigned to the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Army Corps, Army of the Potomac. Among the battles in which he participated may be mentioned: Malvern Hill, Antietam, South Mountain, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, North Anna and Cold Harbor. He was wounded in the stomach at the battle of North Anna, Virginia, and was honorably discharged at Pittsburgh, Pa., June 14, 1864. After the war he engaged in the lumbering business in Jefferson county, Pennsylvania. It was in 1870 that he came to Wright county and bought 200 acres of land in section 27, Corinna township. He cleared all this land, erected buildings, and brought it to a high stage of cultivation. In the meantime he worked in the lumber regions, surveying and looking after cuttings, and later he helped to locate settlers on government land in the northern part of Minnesota. For twelve years Mr. Gordon was a justice of the peace, and for ten years he was supervisor. He was a member of the Masonic order, and served as Commander of Buzzell Post, No. 24, G. A. R. He was also Department Commander for two terms. In 1903 Mr. Gordon began to take a few boarders, and there soon came a demand that he open a regular summer resort. The resort is still maintained, and has applications for more reservations than can be granted. Three double cottages and two single cottages have been built, while



MR. AND MRS. SAMUEL A. GORDON AND GREAT GRANDCHILDREN









GEORGE E. WELLS' RESIDENCE AND LOG CABIN

the meals are served at the main farm house. A new barn, 40x60, with an airy basement, has been erected, the lumber used being of the finest quality brought from Washington. A very good orchard graces the place, while there are extensive berry fields of raspberries, blackberries and strawberries. The resort is located in a pretty spot on the banks of Cedar lake. The fishing is of the best, and everything possible is done in the way of furnishing rest and recreation for the guests. The place is still conducted by members of the family. Samuel A. Gordon was married September 21, 1865, to Matilda McAninch, daughter of George and Mary (Hetrick) McAninch, the former of whom was a farmer and lumberman. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon had but one child, William, who as already mentioned is carrying on the home place in a capable manner.

**George E. Wells**, for several years popularly identified with the summer resort business on the picturesque banks of beautiful Cedar lake in Corinna township, was born in Rock county, Wisconsin, May 17, 1862, son of Joel and Charlotte (Terwilliger) Wells. The father was born in Vermont and died November 26, 1914, at the age of eighty-two. The mother was born in Ohio and died in December, 1912, at the age of seventy-six. They were married in Wisconsin, and their union resulted in five children, Annette, George E., William, John and Frank. George E. was reared to farm pursuits and farmed in Wisconsin for several years, going thence to Iowa, where he lived for a time in Palo Alto county. In 1900 he engaged in the hardware business in Cylinder, in that county. It was in 1902 that he came to Wright county and bought the old Emmanuel Smith farm, in section 15, Corinna township. This tract of 138 acres was one of the first to be secured from the government in the pioneer days. When Mr. Wells took possession of the place he moved into the old original log cabin. This interesting structure, built without nails or screws, erected in the most primitive fashion from trees cut on the place, is still standing, and forms a valuable historic relic. After living a little over a year on this farm, Mr. Wells purchased the Van Dyke place of thirty-eight acres on the same section, just west of the Smith farm and located on the north bank of Cedar lake. Here Mr. Wells established the famous Cottage Grove resort. The desirability of the location, the beauty of the scenery, the advantages of the lake and its surroundings, the excellence of the cuisine, and the warmth and comfort of the hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Wells, soon began to attract guests in larger numbers than could be accommodated. On the sightly and spacious grounds of the place there now stand a large house, seven cottages and a pavilion, all most admirably adapted to their purpose. In April, 1908, Mr. Wells sold this place to F. S. Mears, and moved back to the Emmanuel Smith farm. The knowl-

edge he had gained gave him a thorough appreciation of just what was desired by the people who frequent this region, and he set about building up an ideal summer home. He laid out beautiful lawns, parked the woodlands, and erected a large substantial dwelling and five roomy cottages. One of these cottages they sold to Mr. Fry of Minneapolis, who has remodeled it into a beautiful summer home. Mr. Wells also laid out a pleasant bathing beach and secured an excellent fleet of boats for rowing and fishing. People flocked here in large numbers, and the success which attended his efforts more than justified his faith and energy. His farming operations were likewise important. He erected a modern barn 132 by 34 feet, a swine barn 12 by 100 feet, and other farming buildings, thus making a total length of about 300 feet. He also manufactured considerable maple syrup, having a syrup building and a patented evaporator. His stock was of the best, and all the butter used on the table was made on the place. At the height of his popularity and success, Mr. Wells died, November 14, 1914, and his death was a sad blow to his devoted family. Through all his endeavors, Mr. Wells was sustained by the companionship and help of his devoted wife. With her he planned, and many of the suggestions which counted for his success came from her, while her excellent housekeeping, her management of the kitchen and dining room, and her amiable temperament were important factors in bringing guests to the place. Since the death of her husband she has carried on the farm, and she will also continue the resort. Mr. Wells was married as a young man to Nettie Rockwell, of Wisconsin, who died March 13, 1889, leaving two children: Jay, a farmer of Corinna, and Maude, who lives in Kensett, Iowa. The present Mrs. Wells was Lizzie Hughes, of Iowa. Their children are: Aleathe, Velma, Nellie, Genevieve, Melvin, Homer, Herbert and Hazel, all at home.

**George M. Scheyer**, a well-known resident of Corinna township, was born on the old homestead in this township, May 3, 1879, son of J. P. Scheyer, the pioneer. J. P. Scheyer came to section 14, in the early days, and secured a tract of eighty acres, entirely covered with trees. He erected a log cabin, made a small clearing, and started life in the wilderness. He was fortunate in owning a yoke of oxen which were of great assistance to him. For supplies he went to St. Cloud or Clearwater, walking with the oxen the entire distance. As time passed he developed a good farm, erected good buildings, and became a prosperous citizen. George M. Scheyer was educated in the district schools and was reared on the home place. At the age of twenty-one, he purchased the homestead, and continued its development. Later he sold forty acres, so that he now owns 120 acres. Starting with limited means, he has become a successful man of means. He carries on general farming, raises good stock, and does some



dairying. Mr. Scheyer has been school treasurer for the past seven years. In 1911 he was elected town assessor, a position he is still faithfully filling, giving general satisfaction to the people of the township. Mr. Scheyer was married in 1902 to Adaline Henneman, born in Corinna township, daughter of Anthony and Margaret Henneman, now of Annandale. Mr. and Mrs. Scheyer have had four children: Harold, born October 9, 1903; Vivian, born April 22, 1907; George, who died in infancy; Lorine, born August 10, 1913.

**Frank Schneider**, a prominent citizen of Corinna township, was born in Carver county, Minnesota, April 23, 1866, son of Engelbert and Anna (Maures) Schneider. Engelbert Schneider was born in Germany and came to America in 1852. He lived three months in New York, then went to Michigan, remained there a year, was married, and came to the vicinity of Chaska, in Carver county, this state, where he took a claim in section 19, Chanhassen township. In 1862, when news came of the Indian uprising, he fled with his family to the village of Chaska. Toward the close of the Civil war he enlisted as a private in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery and served a year. He successfully operated his farm until 1885, when he retired and moved to the village of Chaska, where he died May 19, 1904, at the age of seventy-three years. Frank Schneider was reared on the home farm and received a good education in the district schools. In 1885 he went to work for his brother, Joseph Schneider. For his services he received \$5 a month in winter and \$12 a month in the summer. In about a year and a half he earned \$140, and out of this saved \$65. During the next year and a half he worked as a clerk for the Judge of Probate, at Long Prairie, Minn. After this he returned home and operated the home farm in Carver county. While there he was married. It was in 1893 that he came to Corinna township and purchased 120 acres in section 14, Wright county. On this tract he has since resided. When he came here, a house stood on the property and about twenty-five acres had been cleared. He cleared some seventy-five acres more, and brought the place to a good stage of cultivation. He now successfully carries on general farming and makes a specialty of breeding full-blooded Holstein cattle. In the affairs of the community, Mr. Schneider has taken an especially active part. He helped to organize the Annandale Co-operative Creamery Association, and still owns stock in that organization, as well as in the Citizens' State Bank, of Annandale. For the past ten years he has done efficient work as agent for the Middleville Mutual Fire Insurance Co. in Corinna, Clearwater and the west half of Silver Creek. From 1896 to 1913, he ably served the town as supervisor, being chairman of that board a greater part of the time. For twelve years he was clerk of the school board of dis-



trict 57. Mr. Schneider was married June 10, 1890, to Catherine Kohman, born in Carver county, Minnesota, April 14, 1864, daughter of William and Helena (Mulken) Kohman. There are seven children: Lena, born November 6, 1891, is a dressmaker. Ben, born November 18, 1892, is a graduate of the National Business College, of Crookston. Mary was born October 21, 1893. Frances was born May 12, 1895. She is a teacher, having graduated from the Maple Lake high school. Catherine, born March 22, 1897, and Blanche, born August 14, 1899, are graduates of the Annandale high school. Margaret was born May 16, 1904.

**Henry M. Tuelle**, proprietor of the Longworth Summer Resort, on the picturesque banks of beautiful Clearwater Lake in section 8, Corinna township, was born in Rochester, N. Y., January 5, 1850, son of Henry M. Tuelle, Sr., and Hulda M. (Burroughs) Tuelle. Henry M. Tuelle, Sr., was a railroad engineer on the New York Central Railroad. In 1850 he moved the family to Chicago, and there Henry M., the subject of this sketch, was reared. He went to school, played ball on the vacant lots, and at the age of nineteen started out in life for himself. It was in 1877 that he came to Minnesota as second baseman for the Minneapolis "Browns." The same year he went to work in the auditing department of the Minneapolis & St. Louis Railroad, where he remained for six years. In 1883 he entered the employ of Noyes Brothers & Cutler, wholesale druggists, as traffic manager, until October, 1903. On February 11, 1904, he purchased his present place of 41 acres in section 8, Corinna township. Mr. Tuelle is a member of the Blue Lodge, Council, Chapter, Commandery and Shrine, of the Masonic body. He was married, October 21, 1879, to Katherine Hatch, daughter of Homer and Fidelia P. (Howes) Hatch. Mr. Hatch died in 1864, and his widow married, in 1868, Hon. Seagrave Smith, of Minneapolis, judge of the Fourth Minnesota Judicial District from 1891 to 1900. Mrs. Tuelle graduated from the Minneapolis high school in 1879.

**The Longworth Resort**, the oldest summer resort in the Northwest, established in 1860, is situated on the banks of Clearwater Lake, in section 8, Corinna township, eight and a half miles south of Clearwater, six and a half miles north of Annandale, and fifty-six miles by automobile west of Minneapolis. The grounds are beautifully laid out and shaded with towering trees, while in front of the place is one of the best beaches in the state, adequate for the strongest swimmer but safe for the smallest child. There are also tennis grounds, croquet grounds, and an athletic field. The main building is 72 by 60 feet, with a screened porch, 120 by 12 feet. The sixteen cottages accommodate 100 people and have screened porches twelve feet wide. The rooms are large, each has a closet, the furnishings are modern, the sanitation is





MARTIN McALPINE



MR. AND MRS. JAMES O'LAUGHLIN



of the best, light is furnished by a modern gas plant, and everything possible is done for the comfort, convenience and happiness of the guests. The large garage, with modern equipment, has a capacity of fifteen cars. The fleet consists of fifteen row boats and one large launch. Fishing is especially good, black bass, rock bass, crappies, pike, pickerel and roach being caught in abundance. With all these many advantages, however, one of the chief attractions is the excellent cuisine. The food is plentiful, well-cooked and of the best quality. All the vegetables are raised on the place, a specialty being made of the Golden Bantam green corn. The genial and able proprietors have had long experience, and their personality and enterprise have been valuable in building up this splendid resort.

**Michael McAlpine**, a leading farmer of Corinna township, and proprietor of a well-patronized summer resort, was born near Toronto, Canada, March 27, 1853, son of John and Nancy (McCune) McAlpine. The parents came from Canada in 1856, and lived in Saginaw, Mich., seven years, and in St. Paul, Minn., three years. In 1866 they came to Maple Lake township in this county and purchased eighty acres of land. They built a log house, 16 by 22 feet, with a slab roof and a board floor. Seventeen acres were cleared the first winter. This was done by hand, for it was two years before they were able to purchase a yoke of oxen and a cow. They made a wooden-toothed harrow from poles and brush. The wheat was reaped with a scythe and a cradle, and marketed in Monticello. The first winter they had no meat, and they had no means of killing wild game. The next summer the deer proved to be a great nuisance. Sometimes twelve or fifteen at once would come into the clearing to eat turnips. The children of the family caught the fawns and raised them as pets. Thus the family passed through the joys and sorrows of pioneer life, and as the years passed prosperity came to them. The father died in August, 1894; the mother in February, 1892. Michael McAlpine was reared on the farm, and lived at home until 1883, when he bought eighty acres in section 25, Corinna township. Like his father before him, he became a pioneer. He erected a log house, 16 by 20, with a shingled roof and a board floor, and started farming with two cows and a span of three-year-old colts. By hard work and diligent endeavor, he has achieved prosperity in unusual measure. He now owns 204 acres of good land, with a sightly home, and roomy buildings. He has just completed a modern barn, 32 by 74 feet, with cement floor and patent stanchions, the structure having a capacity of thirty cows, twelve horses and 100 tons of hay. Aside from his extensive operations along the lines of general farming, he raises graded Shorthorn cattle, Poland China swine and Plymouth Rock chickens. The farm lies on the shores of Summer lake, and the



160-rod gravel beach is one of the best in the county. This beach has caused a demand for summer accommodations by people who come to visit it, and Mr. McAlpine has accordingly opened a resort. He has more applications than he can accommodate, but usually cares for about twenty-five guests throughout the summer. The rooms are cool and airy, and the food is of the best. Four boats are provided, and the lake abounds in all the best game fish. Mr. McAlpine is a popular man in the community, and has served seven years as a member of the school board of district 119. The family attends the Catholic church in Maple Lake. Mr. McAlpine was married November 11, 1879, to Margaret Welton, daughter of Michael and Mary (Dacy) Welton. In the family there are ten children: Martin D. was born November 9, 1880, was married June 7, 1904, to Elizabeth O'Rourke, and lives in Maple Lake. Samuel P. was born November 25, 1882, and was married April 8, 1913, to Mary Murphy. He lives in Butte, Mont. Mary Loretta was born December 2, 1884. Anna Ethel was born December 28, 1886, and was married June 8, 1910, to Albert Miller, of Maple Lake. Michael F. was born October 17, 1888, was married August 16, 1911, to Minnie Enghauser, and lives two and a half miles west of Maple Lake. John Joseph was born April 1, 1890. Elizabeth Agnes was born June 30, 1893, and died April 25, 1894. Margaret Evelyn was born July 4, 1895; Grace Marie was born January 15, 1901; and Edward Jerald was born September 17, 1904.

**Martin J. McAlpine**, for many years a substantial and representative farmer of Corinna township, exercised a wholesome influence upon the life of his community, set a splendid example of industry and thrift to the younger generations, and left behind a memory which will long be cherished. He was born in Kingston, Canada, June 15, 1861, son of James and Nancy (Collins) McAlpine, natives of that province. He received a good education in the land of his birth, and in 1885 came to the United States and located in Minneapolis, where he engaged in business for four years. From there he came to Wright county and purchased eighty acres of timberland in Corinna township. Only three and a half acres had at that time been cleared. He cut off the heavy timber, cleared and "grubbed" the land, added eighty acres more, and by industry and hard work developed a splendid place and brought it to a high stage of cultivation. His sterling worth at once won favor with his new neighbors, and he became one of the prominent and successful men of the community. In 1912 he erected a beautiful modern residence. But he did not live long to enjoy it as his life was soon brought to a close. Mr. McAlpine was a devout Catholic, a member of St. Timothy's Church, at Maple Lake. He belonged to the A. O. U. W. Mr. McAlpine was married November 3, 1891, to Agnes O'Loughlin,

a most estimable woman, who survives him. Throughout their married life she was a most capable helpmeet. To their union there was born one child, Marke. He married Katie Brooms and lives in Albion township.

**Nelson W. Barrett**, farmer and stockraiser, owner of the Prairie View farm, Clearwater township, was born in Franklin county, New York, February 13, 1851, son of Chester and Olive (Holland) Barrett, natives respectively of Pennsylvania and Vermont. The father died in Wisconsin, and the mother in Clearwater. In the family there were eleven children: Harvey (deceased); Sarah (deceased); Susan (deceased); Whitmore (deceased); Horace, of Malone, N. Y.; Lovisa (deceased); Charles (deceased); Nelson W.; Eva (deceased); Eugene, of Clearwater; and Nelson (deceased). Nelson W. Barrett was reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1868 he came to Wright county and for several years he was engaged as a teamster. Then he purchased forty acres of land and began operations as a farmer. He now owns the Prairie View Farm of 160 acres on section 15, where he carries on general farming and stock raising. His place is well improved and is a model of its kind in every respect. Mr. Barrett is a Republican and has served in numerous local offices, such as highway overseer and school clerk. He is a member of the M. W. A. of Clearwater. Mr. Barrett was married December 20, 1880, to Elnora Adelle Bentley, a native of Michigan, and they have had six children: Jennie, wife of William Ackerson, of Clearwater township; Edwin, of St. Cloud; Etta, twin to Edwin, wife of David Sibert, of Clearwater; William, of Clearwater; Ida, wife of Earl Jones, of Clearwater; and Ray, at home.

**Orange Hyatt**, one of the pioneer settlers of Minnesota, was born in Canada, January 8, 1828, and married Cynthia E. Pease February 21, 1855, at Sherbrook, Canada. He came to Clearwater in the fall of 1856 and settled on a claim three miles south of the village. Six years later he moved to Minneapolis, where he worked at the millwright trade and helped build the great flour mills of that city. Here he became a member of "All Saints" Episcopal church. In 1883 he removed to the farm in Clearwater where he resided until the time of his death, which came at the good old age of eighty-one years. He and his wife celebrated their golden wedding at the old homestead in 1905. Cynthia E. Pease was born in Sherbrook November 30, 1828. In her younger days she was one of the school teachers of Sherbrook and was a member of the Episcopal church for forty-five years. Mrs. Hyatt died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. L. B. Davis, at Clear Lake, June 23, 1912, just two years after her husband. The children are as follows: Joseph O., Clearwater, married Melissa Taylor, of Minneapolis; Fred W., Clearwater, married Mary Bently, Clearwater; Clara M. (deceased) married

Frank Wallace, Minneapolis; Eugene G. Washington married Effie Ridley, Clearwater; Hattie M., Clear Lake, married L. B. Davis (deceased). The following paragraph from an obituary will show the esteem in which Mr. and Mrs. Hyatt were held: "They were highly respected and loved by everybody who came in contact with them either in a business or social way, and besides their immediate relatives were mourned by a host of true friends. Their remains were followed to their last resting place by a large number of old settlers who had known them in life as true friends and sturdy pioneers during the primitive stage of early settlement."

**William C. Knickerbocker**, a leading farmer of Clearwater township, was born on the homestead, where he still resides, February 25, 1877, son of Herman E. and Jennie L. (Hutchinson) Knickerbocker. He received a good education in the district schools, learned farm pursuits from his father, and in 1899 took entire charge of the place. He carries on general farming, making a specialty of stock breeding and horticulture. The principal crops are big four oats and blue stem wheat. His swine are of the Duroc-Jersey breed. His two acres of orchard are devoted to 400 apple trees—Patten's Greenings, Northwest Greenings and Wealthys; thirty compass variety cherry trees and 30 De Soto variety of plum trees. Mr. Knickerbocker is a friend of education and has served ten years as a member of the school board of district 120. He attends the Episcopal church. Mr. Knickerbocker was married December 25, 1901, to Etta Smith, daughter of Edward B. and Emma (Griffing) Smith. Mr. Smith has been a merchant in Howard Lake for some twelve years. Mr. and Mrs. Knickerbocker have two children: Edward, born December 28, 1903, and Elwin, born May 16, 1908.

**Herman K. Knickerbocker**, a pioneer, now deceased, was born in Ramsey county, New York, May 6, 1828, the son of Herman and Sarah (Buel) Knickerbocker. Herman Knickerbocker was a distinguished jurist. For many years he served as judge of the Supreme Court of New York. Herman K. Knickerbocker was reared in a home of culture and education. He received a good education and while still a boy went to sea. For about a year he was in the hardware business in Davenport Iowa. It was in 1857 that he came to Minnesota and took a claim in section 32, Clearwater township. He erected a log cabin, cleared the land, and gradually developed the tract into a first-class farm with modern buildings, good equipment and splendid stock. In the early days he had many interesting experiences. He was friendly with the Indians and received many presents from them. They gave him a fawn, which he raised, and which proved to be a great pet. They also gave him some wild geese eggs, which he hatched out and used as decoys. During the height of the







W. H. LEE AND FAMILY

Sioux uprising he and his wife spent their nights for two weeks in an open boat. He was very deaf and to his wife was relegated the task of arousing him whenever she heard any suspicious sounds. As the years passed they prospered and became leading people in the neighborhood. Mr. Knickerbocker was married September 27, 1856, to Jennie L. Hutchinson, and this union was blessed with eight children: Fannie, now Mrs. Gust Johnson, St. Paul; Charlotte B., who lives with her brother, William C.; Oliver H., who lives in Stearns county; Nettie, now wife of E. A. Getchell, of Grand Forks, N. D.; Emma, now Mrs. Harry Scherfenberg, of St. Cloud; Etta, of Cherokee, N. C.; David H., of St. Cloud, Minn.; William C., on the home farm.

**William H. Lee**, farmer, Clearwater township, was born on the place in section 22, where he still resides, March 21, 1869, son of James and Rebecca (Burcham) Lee, the former of whom was a native of Delaware and the latter of Ohio. They came to Wright county in 1855 with the early pioneers. Here the father died June 3, 1899. The mother now lives in Los Angeles, Cal. In the family there were six children: James F., of South Side township; Sarah, widow of George Furber, of Los Angeles; Arthur B., of Spokane, Wash.; William H.; Mabel, a missionary in Japan, and Grace, wife of L. L. Fish, of Minneapolis. William H. Lee was reared to agricultural pursuits, and received his education in the district schools. He has spent his life, thus far, on the home farm, and carries on general farming. He has greatly improved the farm in every way and is one of the leading men of his township. Mr. Lee was married November 24, 1897, to Anna Kothmann, born in Clearwater township, August 19, 1868, daughter of Francis and Katherine (Unger) Kothmann, natives of Germany. Her parents came to America as young people, found their way to Wright county and were married in Clearwater township. Mr. Kothmann was a skilled blacksmith and followed his trade at Clearwater for a time, but owing to poor health he turned to agriculture and purchased 120 acres in Clearwater township, where he farmed until his death in 1877. By his first marriage he had three children: John and Frank (deceased) and Mary. By his second wife, Katherine Unger, he had seven children: Katherine, Delia, William, Anna, John, Henry and Frank, all of whom are living. Mr. and Mrs. Lee have been blessed with five children: Katherine, born November 25, 1898; Walter, born August 11, 1900; James, born August 30, 1902, died October 30, 1903; John, born September 7, 1904, and Arthur, born April 25, 1906. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Curtis D. Shattuck**, farmer, Clearwater township, was born in Franklin county, New York, December 4, 1824, son of John and Marneda (Rawson) Shattuck, natives respectively of Massa-

chusetts and Vermont, the father having been a soldier in the War of 1812. In the family there were four children: Curtis D., Chauncy (deceased), Laura (deceased) and Lepha (deceased). Curtis D. Shattuck was reared to farm pursuits, and at the age of fifteen began to assume the responsibility of the home farm. His father, who had been wounded in battle, was unable to work. At the time of the father's death Curtis D. came into possession of the home place, paid up all the debts, and acquired success. He made all the shingles for the house, barns, sheds and the like, even cutting the logs himself. In July, 1868, he came west and took up his home in Clearwater village. In 1870 he purchased 110 acres in section 12, Clearwater township, where he has since continued to live. He has purchased ten acres more and has a well-improved place on which he conducts general farming. A Republican in politics, Mr. Shattuck has taken considerable interest in public affairs. He was deputy sheriff in New York state for ten years. He has been town treasurer of Clearwater township for some eight years and has served in minor township offices. Mr. Shattuck was married June 3, 1849, to Amanda Day, a native of Vermont, who was born October 20, 1826, and died June 18, 1903. Mr. and Mrs. Shattuck have four children: Herbert R., born April 6, 1850, now living at home; Ida, born November 28, 1852, now wife of Nathan Dally, of Laporte, Minn.; Edson W., born May 8, 1855, a merchant of Minneapolis, and Sherman W., born July 20, 1865, a mail clerk of Clearwater.

**Willard D. Rice**, farmer and stockraiser, Clearwater township, was born in Winnebago county, Wis., February 23, 1857, son of Clark and Emily (Draper) Rice, natives of Vermont, who came to Wright county in 1879 and located in Clearwater township, where the father died September 5, 1913, and the mother in 1893. In the family there were seven children: Willard D., Philo, Harland, of Clearwater; Minnie, wife of F. Trafton, of Clearwater; Clark, of California, and Levi and Ell, both deceased. Born in a log cabin in Wisconsin, Willard D. Rice started out for himself at the age of sixteen by securing farm employment at \$18 a month. For several years he worked as a farm hand and in the lumber woods. In 1879 he came to Wright county and started working for his father, taking care of the stock, and doing general work around the farm. In 1891 he bought a farm joining the old home farm. It consists of 163 acres on section 12. He has made many improvements, including the erection of a new modern barn. His success as a farmer and stock raiser has been marked. Mr. Rice is a Republican in politics and has served on the school board for several years. He belongs to the Modern Woodmen of America. Mr. Rice is a splendid type of American citizen. He knew the rigors of pioneer endeavor, and with no resources save his own strength, and



C. D. SHATTUCK AND FAMILY







WILLARD D. RICE AND FAMILY



ability and the heritage of sturdy manhood and integrity left by his rugged ancestors he has carved for himself an honored position in the community, and is often held up to the younger generation as a model of what hard work and industry may accomplish. Mrs. Rice is a fine representative of the women of eastern birth whose graciousness and housewifely thrift have helped make Minnesota what it is today. She has encouraged her husband in all his undertakings, has been a sympathetic wife and an understanding mother. She is the friend and the inspiration of many of the young people in the community, and the Rice home is known for its hospitality and cheer. Mr. Rice was married May 17, 1893, to Elmira Brandow, who was born in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, September 20, 1862, daughter of James and Catherine (Shadick) Brandow, natives of New York state who in 1849 came west to Winnebago county and engaged in farming. There the father died in 1902 and the mother is now living at Neenah in Winnebago county, Wisconsin, at the good old age of eighty-three years. In the Brandow family there are ten children, as follows: Henry A., Alfred, George M., Harland, Walter, Elmira, Emmie, Hiram E., Helen May and James B. Mr. and Mrs. Rice have one son Leroy, born August 8, 1894, who is engaged in farming with his father.

**Herman Stuhr**, for many years a respected citizen of Chatham township, was born in Germany, May 8, 1832, received his education in that country, learned the trade of carpenter, and became a small contractor. He came to America in 1873, and located at Stillwater, in this state, where he worked at his trade. One thing he did there was to work on the large Catholic church. In 1874 he came to Wright county and bought eighty acres in section 32, Chatham township, where he erected a set of farm buildings and developed a splendid farm. In time he bought another 160 acres and later added still eighty acres. He reaped his first wheat crop in 1875. He put in the seed by digging holes among the stumps with a hoe and work it in with a hand rake. In time, however, he became very successful, and his farm was operated with all the latest machinery. For a long period during the early days he did contracting and building as well as farming, and some of the best homes and barns in this vicinity are monuments to the honesty and fidelity with which he worked. For several seasons he walked five miles a day to and from his farm to the places where he was doing carpenter work. He was one of those men who assisted materially in building up the county, and was regarded as a useful citizen in every way. For many years he served on the school board. Mrs. Stuhr was born in Germany, June 2, 1839. Mr. and Mrs. Stuhr were the parents of thirteen children: Henry, of Maple Lake, this county; Herman, of Saskatchewan, Canada; Emil, of Chatham, this county;



Otto, of Maple Lake; Emma, now Mrs. Alfred Robasse, of Marysville, this county; Ida, now Mrs. Louis Bremmer, of Marysville; Charles, of Maple Lake; Rudolph and George, of Chatham; Frank, of North Dakota; Minnie, who died at eleven years and eleven months; Albert, of Chatham township, and Annie, of Minneapolis.

**Albert Stuhr**, an active farmer of Chatham township, was born on the homestead in section 32, where he still resides, December 27, 1881, son of Herman and Wilhelmina Stuhr. He attended the district schools, was reared on the home place, and learned farming from his father. For several years he rented the farm, in 1912 took possession of it and has since successfully conducted it. He has 160 acres of land and carries on general farming, making a specialty of stock raising. He buys and feeds, keeps about eighty head and devotes his attention to the beef rather than the dairy aspects of the industry.

**Edward Daniel Elsenpeter**, agriculturist and educator, one of the influential and progressive citizens of Chatham township, was born in the township where he still resides, October 12, 1879, son of Chris. and Clara Elsenpeter. In the family there were eight children: Anna (deceased), Lizzie, Mary (deceased), Rose, William, Henry, Edward D. and Frank. Edward D. attended the district schools in Albion township, and the High schools at Buffalo and Maple Lake, after which, being duly qualified, he received a teacher's certificate. He chose, however, to use his education as a scientific farmer rather than as an instructor. He formed a partnership with his brothers William, Henry and Frank for four years. Henry taught in the district schools of Wright county, William taught in the government Indian school at White Earth, Minn., Frank taught in the government Indian school at Mt. Pleasant, Mich., and Edward D. conducted the home farm. At the close of this period Edward D. and Frank formed a partnership and bought out the other heirs. They farmed for two years and then Frank sold out to Edward D. Edward D. now operates 120 acres of good land in sections 19 and 30, eighty acres in section 30, and forty acres in section 19. He carries on general farming, raises good grade stock, and is a stockholder in the Maple Lake Co-operative Creamery. He also makes a specialty of feeding and fattening cattle for the market. Mr. Elsenpeter was married September 29, 1909, to Jane Engrouser, daughter of Joseph Engrouser, of Buffalo, and they have one child, Edna, born September 12, 1913.

**Joseph Engrouser** came to Minnesota October 1, 1875, was married to Matilda Heaton, January 17, 1877, and started farming in the township of Chatham. He bought forty acres in section 33, farmed that for three years, sold out and bought eighty acres in section 3, Albion; farmed there three years, sold out and

bought eighty acres in section 3, Marysville; farmed there three years, sold out and moved to Quincy, Ill., where he worked four months as a team driver; then moved back to Wright county and bought eighty acres in section 35, Corinna township; farmed there eight years, rented the farm, moved to Chatham township, leased 120 acres in section 33 from his brother-in-law, Frank Behrenbrinker; farmed there two years, moved back onto his farm in Corinna township, lived there two years, rented his farm, was appointed by the County Commissioners as janitor of the Courthouse at Buffalo for eight years; at the end of four years purchased eighty more acres of land in section 34, Corinna township, at the end of eight years moved back to the farm of 160 acres in Corinna township; farmed there twelve years, then gave his son, Frank Enghouser, forty acres in section 35; rented his remaining 120 acres to his son-in-law, Frank McAlpine; then moved to Buffalo as a retired farmer, and bought property there. Mr. and Mrs. Enghouser had five children: Frank William (deceased), Phoebe Ann, Edith Grace, America Jane and Minnie Mary. Matilda Heaton, now the wife of Joseph Enghouser, came to Minnesota in the fall of 1866, at the age of six years. Her parents moved to Marysville from Iowa, coming by rail to Monticello, and driving with ox team a distance of fourteen miles to their new claim. As they journeyed across Monticello prairie they saw many instances where homesteaders had left their claims during the Indian outbreak. Many times, as a girl, Mrs. Enghouser has been in the shacks of homesteaders and seen where the Indians had massacred the white settlers. She has also seen as many as forty wild deer in one grove, and often she encountered bears. At the age of seventeen she married Joseph Enghouser. After they were married, they were accustomed to going ten miles to church with the children, riding on a stone-boat drawn by a pair of oxen. Often in going down hill, the stone-boat would go too fast, and the family would find themselves riding between the oxen. Mr. Enghouser was a trainer of oxen, and during his younger days "broke" as many as thirty pair.

**William Welton**, one of the early pioneers who took his part in the upbuilding of Wright county, was born in Ireland, and was there reared. As a youth he found his way to London, and there he married Julia Ryan. From London they came to America and located in Indiana. From that state they came to St. Paul. It was in 1859 that they came to Wright county and selected a claim of 80 acres in Maple Lake township. At the time of the Indian outbreak they fled to the stockade at Monticello. During a part of the way the men went ahead to see that the way was clear and that there were no Indians about. They dropped crackers along the trail so that the women might know that all was safe, and follow on. After the trouble was over the family

returned and resumed their labor. They bought 160 acres more land nearer Maple Lake. They cleared the land, went through the untold hardships of pioneer life, and in time achieved prosperity, being noted for their honesty and self-respect. He died October 12, 1901, and she June 17, of the same year. Mr. and Mrs. Welton were the parents of ten children. Mary and John are dead. Ellen is dead. Her husband, Charles Mullen, and their children are living in Tacoma, Washington. He is a veteran of the Civil war. Bridget is the wife of Charles Hayes, of Maple Lake township, likewise a veteran of the Civil war. Patrick lives in Maple Lake township. He was the first white child born in this neighborhood. He married Lucy Elsenpeter. Katherine lives on the old homestead. Emma is dead. Marie is the wife of George E. Elsenpeter of Chatham township. Nettie is on the old homestead. William died in Maple Lake township, village, October 12, 1901.

**William Elsenpeter**, a sturdy pioneer whose name will ever be remembered in Wright county as one of its most useful and respected citizens, was born in Germany, and as a young man came to America seeking his fortune. Here he married Mary White, a native of Maine. They came to Wright county in 1856, and settled on 160 acres in Maple Lake township. For a time they lived in a most primitive way. They erected a log cabin, cut down the heavy timber, cleared and "grubbed" the land, and, facing life with zeal and courage, underwent with patience many hardships and privations. But with the passing of the years came success and prosperity. A splendid residence replaced the log cabin, sightly barns took the place of the old shed, and the farm was increased to 280 acres of well-tilled land. A progressive man in every way, a man who believed thoroughly in the dignity of the agricultural pursuits, it is not to be wondered at that he was the first man in his part of the county to own a threshing, reaping and binding outfit. He and his wife are both deceased. He died February 17, 1890, and she died February 17, 1889, Mr. and Mrs. Elsenpeter were the parents of nine children: Lucy is now Mrs. Patrick Welton, of Maple Lake township; George E. is a leading farmer in Chatham township; John married Mary Cavanaugh and lives in Maple Lake township; Agnes married Albert Westrup, of Maple Lake; Ada married Daniel Flaherty, of Maple Lake; William is engaged in railroading; Charles married Mary Thien, and is engaged in farming in Rockland, Idaho; Alice is the wife of James Sixton, of Maple Lake; Grace is wife of Emery Moore, of Loretta, Minn.

**George E. Elsenpeter**, one of the best known and most influential farmers of Wright county, was born in Maple Lake township, this county, August 12, 1865, son of William and Mary (White) Elsenpeter. He received his education in the little log





GEORGE ELSENPETER AND FAMILY





schoolhouse near his home, learned farming from his father, helped to clear the land and develop the home place, and remained with his parents until his father's death, taking entire charge of the farm during the latter part of this period. After his father died, he and his brother John conducted the farm together. At that time it consisted of 280 acres, 240 acres being in Maple Lake township and forty acres in Chatham township. Later the estate was divided, and George E. received 33 acres. By intelligently directed hard work and unremitting toil he has increased his holdings until he now has 322 acres which constitute one of the finest farms in the whole county. In 1913 he erected a brick residence, which is likewise one of the finest farm homes in the county. Mr. Elsenpeter has worked early and late, and has ever been honest and upright, just in all his dealings. He well deserves the success with which he has met. He is a student of his work, follows the latest improved methods, and believes in progress along all lines of endeavor. For fourteen years he was chairman of the town board of Chatham. For the past seven years he has held his present position as member of the school board of his district. Fraternally he is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters. The temperance cause finds in him an ardent supporter. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Elsenpeter was married February 24, 1892, to Marie Welton, who has proven a most capable helpmeet in all their walks in life. In the family there are seven children: William, born December 28, 1892; Francis, born June 3, 1894; Earle, born October 6, 1895; Margaret and Julia (twins), born March 6, 1898; Clarence, born June 29, 1900, and Clinton, born November 28, 1908.

**Isaac Cowett**, a pioneer, now deceased, was born in Quebec, Canada, June 29, 1836, son of Swasen and Julia (Richards) Cowett. Isaac Cowett came to Hennepin county, this state, in 1853, and worked for a number of years as a farm hand. After his marriage he bought forty acres of land, in the same county, near Dayton, and lived there until 1877. Then they sold that land, and purchased 160 acres in section 31, Chatham township, Wright county. The tract was covered with timber. Mr. Cowett set at work and built a log cabin, 18 by 28, with a board floor and a roof of oak "shakes." Gradually he cleared the land and prepared it for cultivation, until he had an excellent farm. He also erected suitable buildings from time to time, and became a prosperous man. He died November 4, 1901. Mr. Cowett was married January 10, 1860, to Susan Goodin, born March 8, 1845, daughter of Paul and Abilene (Micheau) Goodin, of Hennepin county, this state. The children in the family are: Staven; Octavia, now Mrs. John Young; Joseph; Ellen, now Mrs. Charles Koshien; Elizabeth, now Mrs. Timothy Eldred; Ida, now Mrs.

Peter Bolger; Matilda, now Mrs. Charles Liser; George; John, of Maple Lake; Emma, now Mrs. Emil Stuhr; William; Samuel; and Milady, now Mrs. Thomas Antil, of Buffalo. Nine are dead.

**George Cowett**, a substantial farmer of Chatham township, was born in Hennepin county, this state, February 5, 1875, son of Isaac Cowett and Susan (Goodin) Cowett. He was brought to section 31, Chatham township, as an infant, and was here reared. He attended the public schools and learned farming from his father. In 1912 he rented the place, and has since successfully conducted it. His mother lives with him. The place is splendidly improved in every way. The house contains eleven rooms and is modern throughout. The barn was destroyed by fire April 4, 1914, being a total loss, together with five horses, sixteen head of cattle, three sets of harnesses, eight swine, fifteen tons of hay, and a good supply of grain and feed. It was an unusually fine structure, having a capacity of thirty cattle, seven horses and sixty tons of hay. Undaunted by this disaster, Mr. Cowett has set to work to repair his losses. He carries on general farming and is looked upon as a successful man. Mr. Cowett was married January 14, 1913, to Elizabeth, the daughter of August Shelander, of Michigan. She had been married November 2, 1896, to Peter Kalstrom, who died October 2, 1910, leaving two children: Roy Philip and Chester Raymond.

**Arthur F. Munstenteiger**, a prosperous farmer of Chatham township, was born in Buffalo township, this county, November 10, 1883, son of Herman and Lena Munstenteiger, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools and learned farming from his father. He now owns the homestead of 160 acres in Chatham, has erected some good barns, has a comfortable home, and is regarded as a successful farmer and good citizen in every respect. He carries on general farming, making a specialty of raising good stock. He married Anna Demares, and has one daughter, Mildred, born December 28, 1912. Anna Demares is the daughter of Napoleon and Melvina Demares, who in the early days settled in section 2, Chatham township, among the earliest pioneers. They experienced all the rigors of frontier life. When they arrived they erected a shelter of poles and leaves and lived in this manner until their cabin was completed. It took them many years to clear their land, but in time they became prosperous and comfortable.

**Hjalmar Frithiof Borgstrom**, a leading farmer of Chatham township, was born in Delarne, Sweden, June 29, 1864, son of Samuel Gustave and Johanna (Jewett) Borgstrom. Samuel Gustave Borgstrom was a prominent miller, and followed that business from 1854 to 1861. The famine of 1860 caused many of the peasants to move away, and he closed his mill and opened a general store, which he conducted from 1861 to 1867. Then for

several years he was foreman and cruiser for a large lumber company. In his latter years he acted as communal spokesman and had charge of the expense records of the parish church. He was born in Westmanland, January 7, 1828, and died in December, 1901. His wife was born in Westmanland, March 24, 1824, and died in August, 1889. They were married in 1854 and had six children: Hilda Louise, Charlotta, Gustave Adolph, Anna Sophia, Emma Maria and Hjalmar F. Charlotta came to the United States in 1881, and located in Marysville. She married Ole Peterson. Gustave still lives in Delarne, Sweden. Anna Sophia came to Marysville in 1886 and located in section 7. She is the wife of Nels Peterson. Emma Maria still lives in Sweden. Hjalmar F. was reared in his native parish, and in 1888 came to America, arriving in Minneapolis May 25. For a time he worked as a harvest hand, later in the lumber woods. After his marriage he located on section 31, Chatham township, where he secured forty acres. A shack had been erected and about one and a half acres had been broken. For two or three years he worked with a yoke of steers. Gradually he cleared up the land, and in time erected a modern house and barns. He carries on general farming, and has made a specialty of breeding Holstein cattle. A thorough believer in the farmers' movement, he has taken shares in the Farmers' Co-operative Store, at Waverly, and has been well pleased with the venture. At the present time he is serving as town supervisor and school clerk. In times past he has held various offices in the Swedish Lutheran Church at Marysville. For thirteen years he has been local agent for the Scandinavian Fire Insurance Company. Mr. Borgstrom was married in the fall of 1889 to Betsy Eck, born in Sweden November 14, 1868, daughter of Olaf and Anna (Hanson) Eck, who spent the span of their years in Sweden. Of the eleven children in the Eck family there were three, John, Betsy and Ellen, who came to the United States. John is dead. Ellen is the wife of Andrew Johnson, of Minneapolis. Mr. and Mrs. Borgstrom have had four children: Elmer was born April 12, 1890, and died in 1892. Henry was born July 15, 1892, and died at the age of twenty-nine days. Carl Arthur was born January 28, 1894. Elmer Samuel was born July 12, 1895. Elmer S. has been raised to agricultural pursuits and is to receive the home farm. Carl A. has been given an education. He graduated from the Buffalo high school in 1911, and took up the study of pharmacy. In January, 1914, he passed with high marks the examination of the State Board of Pharmacy, and is now a licensed druggist, and is manager of a drugstore at 1110 Payne avenue, St. Paul. The family history of the Borgstroms is most interesting. The father of Samuel Gustave Borgstrom was a blacksmith. The grandmother of Mrs. Samuel Gustave Borgstrom bore the name of Jewett. She reached



Sweden at the age of six years, and her native country is unknown. In time she married Mathew Mattison and, as his name was so common a one, she adopted her mother's surname, Jewett.

**S. A. Anderson**, a prominent farmer of section 32, Chatham township, was born in Sweden, December 2, 1856, son of S. A. Anderson, Sr., and Mary (Mattson) Anderson, and great-grandson of Mat Mattson, who fought in the Norwegian war of 1814. The children in the family were S. A., Anna and Erick C. S. A. was the first of the family to come to America. He arrived in New York in 1880, did railroad work for a while, and then located in Escanaba, Mich. In 1884 he came to Wright county and purchased eighty acres in section 32. Twenty acres had been cleared and a small shack stood on the place. It was this year that the rest of the family came to America. The subject of this sketch made a home for his parents for many years. His mother still lives with him, having been totally blind for the past six years. His father died in 1898 at the age of seventy. Mr. Anderson cleared up his place, erected buildings and became a prosperous farmer. To his original tract he had added another twenty, so that he now owns 100 acres of good land, with a modern farm house, roomy barns and a good silo. He carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of raising good stock. For twenty-five years past he has been a member of the school board of his district. Mr. Anderson was married in 1885 to Carrie Mattson, a native of Wright county, daughter of Peter and Mary (Erriekson) Mattson, who were born in Sweden and settled in Marysville township. Mrs. Carrie (Mattson) Anderson died eight years after her marriage, at the age of twenty-four, leaving three children: Alexander, Mamie and Emma. For his second wife Mr. Anderson married Martha Anderson, a native of Sweden. She died three years after their marriage, at the age of twenty-seven. The present Mrs. Anderson was Anna M. Carlson, widow of Louis Anderson, of Sweden. By this union, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have three children, Edith, Roy and Hilda. By her previous marriage Mrs. Anderson has two children, Lawrence and Arnold.

**Francis Berthiaume** was the son of Francis Berthiaume, who was one of two brothers who came from France to Canada and founded the American branches of the family. Francis, the subject of this sketch, was reared in lower Canada, and there married Osite Faver. To this union there were born six children: Francis, Odelong, Eusebe, Isiah, Osite and Matilda. In 1849 the family settled in Montcalm county, Michigan, where one of the children, Osite, died. In the spring of 1856 the family came to St. Paul. Two years later they settled in Chatham township, secured eighty acres and erected a shack on the banks of Birch



E. A. ANDERSON AND FAMILY



lake. The tract was covered with woods, and no roads led to it, but with courage they set about establishing for themselves a home in the wilderness. During the Indian troubles they fled to Elk River. Afterward they returned. They experienced all the rigors of pioneer life, though they were somewhat more fortunate than the rest of the settlers in that they had a pair of horses. For supplies they went to Monticello or St. Paul. Francis Berthiaume lived to clear fifteen acres of land. He died in 1869 at the age of seventy-six years, three months and three days. His wife died July 25, 1896, at the age of ninety-four years, four months and twenty-five days.

**Francis Berthiaume**, son of the Francis Berthiaume whose sketch precedes this, and grandson of Francis Berthiaume, one of the founders of the family in America, was born in lower Canada, and came with the family to Michigan in 1849, to St. Paul in 1856, and to Chatham township, Wright county, in 1858. At the age of sixteen he ran away from home and enlisted in Company E, Hatch's Independent Battalion, Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry. He accompanied the battalion against the Indians, and later against the Confederates. He was mustered out at the close of the war, and in 1865 married Mary Crosby. About this time they took a claim of eighty acres in Marysville township. The tract was covered with woods, and no roads led to it. He erected a log cabin, and with the help of a yoke of oxen began to clear the land. He developed the place into a good farm, and in 1879 sold to his brother. He was a prominent man and held various school offices and town offices. He also helped to build the Catholic church at Waverly. In his latter years he joined the John Cochrane Post, G. A. R., at Buffalo, and delighted in his association with his old comrades. He died in 1912 at the age of sixty-six. His wife, who was the daughter of Robert Crosby, is still living.

**James F. Berthiaume**, an influential farmer of Chatham township, was born in Marysville township, this county, July 19, 1867, son of Francis and Mary (Crosby) Berthiaume, grandson of Francis and Osite (Faver) Berthiaume, and great-grandson of that Francis Berthiaume who came from France to Canada and founded one of the American branches of the family. James F. was reared by his distinguished uncle, Lieutenant James E. Cochrane, whose homestead he now occupies. He received a good education and as a young man went to the Dakotas, where he herded cattle. Afterward he took a claim of 160 acres in Stevens county, Minnesota. In 1893 he sold out his interests there and returned to the Cochrane homestead, which he rented for a while and then purchased. He has built up a splendid farm, and is a very successful man. His popularity is shown by the fact that he has been school officer seventeen years and town



assessor three years, and is now serving as town treasurer. Mr. Berthiaume is a thorough believer in the brotherhood of mankind and is a great lover of good fellowship. He delights in extending a friendly hand to all. Fraternally he is associated with the lodge and the encampment of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Berthiaume married Emily Martie, and they have two children: Endora and Lilibelle. Emily Martie Berthiaume is the daughter of Gottlieb and Elizabeth (Beuchart) Martie, natives of Switzerland. They came to America, found their way to Minnesota, and lived at St. Anthony until after the war, when they came to Wright county and settled in Silver Creek, where the daughter Emily was born. In their declining years they spent their time with Mr. and Mrs. James F. Berthiaume, until their death. Mr. Martie died in 1898 at the age of seventy-four. Mrs. Martie died in 1891 at the age of sixty-eight.

**James E. Cochrane** was born in Canada, the son of John and Jessie (Watts) Cochrane, and stepson of John Dodd, the pioneer. He came to Minnesota in the fifties. He did brave work as lieutenant in Company C, Hatch's Independent Battalion, Minnesota Volunteer Cavalry, and at the close of the war took a claim of 120 acres of wild land in section 26, Chatham township. He erected a log cabin, cleared the land, and helped to build a road past his place. In 1869 he brought lumber from Monticello and erected a frame house twenty rods east of his original cabin. This was the first frame house erected in this locality. He organized the school district and served in many town and school offices. He was a leading man in his community, and had much influence on the trend of public affairs. He died about 1879 at the age of forty. A matter in which he took great pride was the erecting of the Marysville bridge over the North fork of the Crow river.

**Carl M. Carlson**, president of the Cokato Canning Company, was born in Sweden, September 21, 1855, son of Carl and Cajsa (Bergman) Carlson. Carl Carlson, the father, brought the family to the United States in 1859, and settled at Marine Mills, Washington county, this state. In 1867 he brought the family to Wright county and located a mile south of Stockholm, in Stockholm township. He secured a tract of eighty acres, erected a log building, and with the ox team that he had brought with him started to clear the land. He was one of the real founders of the township. He was one of the three men who named the town, and served the town as clerk and as justice. He also assisted in organizing the Stockholm church. He died in 1882 at the age of sixty-five. His wife died in 1905 at the age of ninety. Their children were Carl M., Louisa, Caroline and Mary. Carl M. Carlson was brought to Wright county as a boy. In 1888 he came to Cokato, and operated the Western Hotel for twenty-five years. At the end of that period he retired from the arduous

duties of active management. For ten years past he has done the locality good service as president and manager of the Cokato Canning Company. He has been justice of the peace for twenty years and has served on various important committees and delegations, and like his father before him has taken his part in the growth and development of the community. A recent publication has said: "Carl M. Carlson, the president of the Cokato Canning Company, is a man of keen business ability, and in the long years in which he has been identified with Cokato life he has established a most enviable record. In the period that he has been identified with his present business he has built up a splendid trade, and the number of his patrons is growing because of the unfailing liberal and businesslike treatment that they receive. In 1904 the Cokato Canning Company was organized with a capital stock of \$18,000. Operations were commenced at once. Through the efficient efforts of Carl M. Carlson, the president, and John Ojampera, the secretary, the business has been placed on a paying basis. These two gentlemen have practical charge of the factory and of all of its output. The capacity is about 25,000 cases a year, each case containing twenty-four cans. Although the season at the cannery is only six to eight weeks in length, it is a very busy one, and some seventy-five or eighty-five assistants are employed. The product has a splendid reputation, and there is a rapidly increasing demand for it."

**Isaac Christopher**, a pioneer, now deceased, was born in Finland, near the Norwegian line, December 24, 1832, son of John and Eva Christopher, who were born in Finland and moved to Norway in 1840. Two of their children, Isaac and Peter, were born in Finland, and two, Mary and John, were born in Norway. As he grew to manhood he learned the jeweler's trade. In 1859 he married Stena Hendrickson, and four children, Fred J., Stena, David and August Nicholas, were born. In 1866, August Nicholas having died, Isaac Christopher, with his wife and the other three children, started for America. On the trip another son, Nicholas, was born. They settled in Michigan, and remained there four years, Isaac Christopher working at his trade and in machine shops. In Michigan another son, Henry, was born. In 1870 the family started westward again, coming by way of Duluth to Wright county, and locating on sixty-five acres of woodland in sections 12 and 13, Cokato. A log building was erected on section 12, and with an ox team the family began to clear the land. As time passed Mr. Christopher added to his tract until he owned 175 acres. After prosperity came he erected a frame house in section 12, and he made many other improvements. Well liked and trusted by his fellows, he was elected township supervisor and a member of the school board for several terms. He was honored and respected by all who knew him, and his death,

June 12, 1903, was deeply and sincerely mourned. The children born in Minnesota were: Jack, Benjamin, Albert, Philip, Isabella, Minnie, Edwin and Helen. Those who died in Minnesota were Henry, Minnie and Helen. Stena Hendrickson, widow of Isaac Christopher, was born in Norway, May 17, 1842, daughter of Magnus and Stena Hendrickson, whose other children were Eva, Mary, Sophia and Henry. Magnus Hendrickson died in Norway, and his widow and children set sail for the United States. She died on the trip, but the children continued and located in Michigan.

**Fayette Lee**, pioneer and highly respected citizen, was born in Waterbury, N. Y., May 9, 1852, son of William and Betsy (Putnam) Lee. The grandfather, also named William Lee, was a native of England, and came of a long line of farmers. The grandfather on the maternal side was Owen Putnam, said to be a relative of Israel Putnam of historic fame. William Lee and Betsy C. Putnam were born February 10, 1823, and October 5, 1829, respectively. They were married August 19, 1849, and were the parents of ten children: Marion, Fayette and Emma were born in New York state, while Charles, Morrison, Edwin, Viola, James, Rosa and Eugene were born in Minnesota. William Lee, with his wife and children, started for Minnesota in 1855, coming by way of LaCrosse and thence up the Mississippi river to St. Paul. For one and a half years they lived in Minneapolis. Then they located on Mooers' prairie, in Cokato township, where they secured eighty acres. They erected a log house and with an ox team started to clear the land. The father brought supplies from Minneapolis on his back. During the first Indian fright the family took refuge in the stockade at Greenwood, near Rockford. Afterward they returned, but when the second fright came they went back to New York state and remained until 1865, when they once again came to their home in Cokato. William Lee died February 20, 1890. His wife died June 29, 1904, at Atkinson, Minn. She was a member of the Baptist church. Fayette Lee received his early education in Minnesota and New York state. For some years he remained on fifteen acres of the home place, which he purchased. Later he moved to Cokato village. In 1887 he purchased ten acres in the suburbs of Cokato, where he now has a beautiful and comfortable home, surrounded with flowers. He makes a specialty of raising garden produce, and has an apiary in which he takes particular pride. He has a very deep interest in the affairs of the early days, and is an honored member of the Territorial Pioneers' Association. Mr. Lee was married December 8, 1875, to Ellen Edgerley, born April 6, 1857, at Hudson, Mich., and to this union there have been born two children. Albert Lucas was born October 17, 1876, was married June 21, 1898, to Hattie Armstrong, and has three children, Dorothy, Leland and







JACOB OJANPERA

Genevieve. Cora Emma was born April 10, 1880, and was married June 25, 1902, to Alfred Halverson. Ellen Edgerly Lee is the daughter of Edward L. and Lucinda (Britton) Edgerly, who came to Minnesota in the fall of 1874. Edward L. Edgerly was born in 1913 and died at the age of eighty-eight years and one month. His wife died in 1880 at the age of sixty-three. They had nine children: Carrie, George, Mary, Martin, Eliza, Amanda, Sarah, Joseph and Ellen.

**Jacob Ojanpera** is the leading citizen of the neighborhood in which he lives. Coming to this country as a poor boy, he has won unusual success, and is known far and wide for his influence and position. He was born August 6, 1838, in Finland, son of Sakri and Preda (Pere) Ojanpera. He received a good education in the Minister's school, and in 1867 went to Norway, and in 1870 came to America. He was at that time a single man. He worked his way westward, and finally reached Cokato. A brickyard had been built there, but the neighboring country was still a wilderness. After working for a time in the brickyard, he went to Michigan. Several years later he came back to Cokato and bought his present place in sections 16 and 21, Cokato township. Here he has since lived, and here, year by year, he has prospered. When he first established his home in the wilderness he had a small cabin made of logs and a shed made of poles and covered with straw. His house is a sightly building known for miles around. His barns resemble a small village. He has cattle barns and hay barns and horse barns, a shed for repairing harnesses and tools, a tool shed, sheds for the housing of the other implements used on the farm. In fact, the equipment is just such as one would expect on the farm of the most prosperous man in the community. The dairy in which the cream separator is run by a gasoline engine is one of the features of the place. Another convenience which Mr. Ojanpera has installed is a Finnish bath house, where the bather is thoroughly steamed after the manner in vogue in the country of Mr. Ojanpera's boyhood. His farm now consists of 300 acres, and its fertile area is in decided contrast to the wild tract of land which Mr. Ojanpera took when he first came here. Mr. Ojanpera has taken a prominent part in the affairs of the community. He has been supervisor and town treasurer, and has been sent as a delegate to many conventions in St. Paul and Buffalo. He is the leading man in his church and has been president for the past twenty years. He helped to organize the Cokato Cooperative Store and the Cokato State Bank. In fact there are few ventures of a public nature in which he has not had a part. His judgment is always good, and whenever anything is to be undertaken in the community his opinion is always asked. He married Emily Halonen, and their children are John, Jemina, Isaak (deceased), Hjalmar and Jeely.

**Arthur A. Ferrell**, a well-known farmer of Cokato township, was born on the homestead where he still resides, October 1, 1880, son of James Harvey and Sarah J. (Hayes) Ferrell, the early settlers. He was reared on the home place, attended the district schools, and on the death of his father, April 2, 1902, took over the home farm, which he has since successfully conducted. Mr. Ferrell has been especially active in those things that tend to improve the town. He helped to put through the Ferrell-Larson road and bridge. In 1891 he assisted in organizing the Crow River Rural Telephone line. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Rural Free Delivery Route No. 5, out of Cokato. Aside from carrying on general farming, he makes a specialty of raising full-blooded Durham cattle, Berkshire swine and thoroughbred fowls, some of which were imported from Japan.

**James Henry Ferrell**, now deceased, was for many years a leader in Wright county affairs. A man of genial temperament and broad sympathies, he won friends wherever he went, and he made the world a little better place by his having lived in it. He was born in what is now Wetzel county, Virginia, March 4, 1834, son of James and Catherine (Sommers) Ferrell. The grandparents on both sides were natives of Maryland, and of Irish descent. Members of the family participated in the War of 1812. James and Catherine Ferrell settled in the woods of what is now West Virginia, where were born their ten children: Mary, Casenden, James Harvey, Robert, William, John, Rebecca Mathew and two that died in infancy. James Harvey Ferrell was educated in the schools of the neighborhood and was reared to farm pursuits. March 18, 1858, he married Sarah J. Hayes, who was born in Virginia July 3, 1840. After their marriage they farmed in what is now Tylor county, West Virginia, for twelve years, and there six of their children were born. In 1869 the family set out for Minnesota, going down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to St. Paul. From there they came on a gravel train to Delano, and from there they came on foot, with Edward, the youngest son, on his mother's back, to the home of Joseph Bland, in Marysville township. There they rested nearly a week. Then they visited at the home of an uncle, Elisha Ferrell, near Montrose, for a few days, and from there they went to the home of James Hayes, in Franklin township, where they likewise remained a short period. After leaving him they moved into a railroad shack which the construction crew had used for shelter. This was in Franklin township. In November they moved into a cabin on the homestead of J. T. Alley, in Franklin township. February 22, 1870, they located on the shores of Foster's lake, now known as Junkin's lake, in Middleville township, where they lived in a log cabin sixteen feet square. October 28, 1870, they moved onto their present place, in section 12, Cokato township. The tract







JOHN FERRELL AND FAMILY

was covered with woods, and there was nothing in the way of roads but some old deer paths. The eighty acres were bought from David Cochrain, who had homesteaded it. It was two weeks after the family arrived on the place before they had their cabin erected. This cabin was 16 by 18 feet, made from logs that were cut on the place. They at once set to work, and before the close of the first year they had a cleared field of twelve acres. Many were the hardships to be endured. Money was scarce and provisions were hard to obtain. When they went to the mill on Cokato lake with their ox team, they crossed the creeks by making the oxen swim, while they pulled the wagon over on a cable fastened to the wagon-tongue. By untiring industry, James Henry Ferrell was enabled to acquire 280 acres of fertile land. He has made extensive improvements, erected a dwelling and barns, set out trees, graded a slightly lawn, and in other ways made his home one of the best in the neighborhood. He was a good manager, a good citizen, a good farmer, and he made his life count for something. Ever mindful of the welfare of his family, he gave tracts of land to several of his sons and daughters. After a long and useful life he died April 12, 1902. The thirteen children in the family are: Martin W., born December 1, 1858, and died May 2, 1865; William J., born June 20, 1860; James C., born July 28, 1861; Josephus M., born October 10, 1862; Alexander, born March 7, 1864; Roda E., born March 16, 1865; Menervia W., born September 26, 1866; Edmund, born September 7, 1868; Ezra, born October 7, 1870; Thornton, born June 17, 1872; Daniel, born January 18, 1874; Clara B., born November 19, 1876; Arthur A., born August 1, 1880.

**John Ferrell**, now deceased, was one whose ability and character made him a natural leader of men. Familiarly known as "Uncle John," he was the general adviser to everyone in the community, and his good sense and sound judgment made all his opinions of much value. He and his good wife "Aunt Ann" kept open house, the home became a sort of a headquarters of the social events of the neighborhood, and their hospitality was widely known. John Ferrell was born in Dundas county, Province of Ontario, Canada, May 9, 1847, son of Lemuel and Mary (Watt) Ferrell, natives respectively of the United States and of Canada. As a young man, Lemuel Ferrell went to Canada, and there spent the remainder of his life as a farmer. He came of an old Scotch family, and his wife arrived in Canada from Scotland at the age of six years. Amid the stirring pioneer and Indian times they reared their family. After the death of Lemuel Ferrell, his widow came to the United States, and died at Howard Lake, in this county. In the family there were five sons and four daughters. The sons were John, Lemuel, James, George and Enas J., who died at about four years of age. George died in Canada. John is dead.

James lives in Cokato township. Lemuel lives in Middleville. John Ferrell was reared on the home farm in Canada, and attended the district schools. In 1870 he was married, and after that he farmed in Canada for eight years. It was in 1878 that he brought his wife and his two children, Mary and Arthur, to the United States and located on a tract of 160 acres in section 24, Cokato township. They came as far as Howard Lake by rail, Smith's Lake being then the end of the line. With them they brought the first pair of horses used in this neighborhood. Mr. Ferrell built one of the first frame houses in this locality. The old building is still a part of the present modern residence. For a barn he nailed boards onto the trees and piled straw against them. He cleared up the land and by hard work, frugality and shrewdness added to his property until he owned 320 acres of good land, one of the finest places in the vicinity. Coupled with his great personal success, he yet found time to devote to enterprises that had for their object the upbuilding of the community. For nineteen years he was vice-president of the State Bank of Howard Lake. For a number of years he was connected with the Farmers' Co-operative Store at Cokato, and the Cokato Co-operative Creamery. He was active in the Methodist Episcopal services held at the home of Mr. Doble, at Smith Lake, and became one of the charter members and one of the first trustees when the church was established at Smith's Lake. He was also prominent in Sunday school work. He died January 23, 1914, well beloved, highly honored and sincerely mourned. In the family there were three children. Mary Elizabeth was born May 19, 1873. Arthur Wellington was born June 2, 1876. Howard Armstrong was born September 12, 1885. The two oldest were born in Canada, and the youngest in Cokato township. Mary Elizabeth died April 3, 1886. Arthur married Florence May Conger, and lives in Newberg, Ore., on a fruit ranch. Howard married Bertha Dell Ritchie, and they have two children: Lois Margery was born June 17, 1909, and Anna May was born October 8, 1912. Another child, Leland Howard, was born February 2, 1911, and died March 8, 1911. John Ferrell was married December 13, 1870, to Esther Ann Armstrong, born in Dundas county, Province of Ontario, Canada, March 26, 1853, daughter of Robert Livingston and Elizabeth (Rown) Armstrong, natives of Ireland. Robert Livingston Armstrong came with his parents to Canada, while his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of James Rown, lost her parents at the age of five years on the trip over. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong were married in Canada and there their children were born. Those who lived to adult years were: William James, Joseph Rown, Charles Wesley, Robert John, Benjamin S., Mary Jane, Esther Ann and Margaret Elizabeth. Four died in infancy. Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong came to Wright county in 1900 and took up their home with Mr. and Mrs. John Ferrell







ANDREW NORBERG

in Howard Lake in 1908. Mr. Armstrong died in 1913 and his wife in 1914.

**August M. Swanberg**, a prominent farmer of Cokato township, was born on the Swanberg homestead in Cokato township, July 4, 1879, son of Magnus and Bertha (Olson) Swanberg, the pioneers. He was educated in the district schools and remained at home until 1893, when he went to the northern part of the state. He secured a claim, and to this added by purchase until he now owns 320 acres of good land on the Rainy river, twenty-five miles west of International Falls. After his father's death he returned home, and here he has since conducted general farming on seventy acres of the Swanberg farm. Mr. Swanberg was married January 1, 1913, to Beatrice T. Larson, of Cokato township, born May 28, 1883, daughter of Erick L. Larson. Mr. and Mrs. Swanberg have one child, Evelyn Victoria, born November 2, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Erick L. Larson were natives of Sweden. They came to America in 1880 and located on a farm in Cokato township. In 1914 they retired, and now live in the village of Cokato. They were the parents of five children: Carl and Beatrice died on the ocean voyage coming over. Beatrice, Lydia and Signa were born in America.

**Magnus Swanberg** was born in Smaaland, Sweden, April 23, 1837, and came to the United States in 1867. After staying a short period in St. Paul he came to Cokato township and took a homestead of eighty acres of land. The tract was covered with woods. He erected a log cabin, and moved into it before he had the roof put on. With his ox team he began to clear the land. Later he was able to buy additional land until he owned 210 acres. He worked early and late, and as the years passed developed a good farm. He died in 1907. He was a trustee of the Swedish Lutheran Church at Cokato, and a useful citizen. For several years he was treasurer of Cokato township. Mr. Swanberg was married July 3, 1870, to Bertha Olson, born October 26, 1833, in Sweden. Mr. and Mrs. Swanberg have had four children: Fred, August, Anna, now Mrs. August Wadenstin, of Minneapolis; and Emma, wife of August Salberg. She died at the age of twenty-five. Mrs. Bertha (Olson) Swanberg was the daughter of Erick and Bertha Olson. The mother died in Sweden and the father came to the United States and died here. In the Olson family there were six children: Ole, Andrew, Erick (deceased), Bertha, Carrie and Betsy. Ole died in Sweden, and the rest came to the United States.

**Andrew Norberg**, the popular and efficient buttermaker for the Knapp Creamery Association, on the line between French Lake and Cokato townships, was born in section 32, Cokato township, April 19, 1880, son of Peter Norberg, the pioneer, who located on a heavily wooded tract in French Lake township in

the early days, erected a log cabin, experienced the usual hardships of pioneer life, and developed a splendid farm. He died in 1902, and his wife still lives on section 32. He and his good wife were the parents of six children, four boys and two girls. Andrew Norberg was the third in the family. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools and early became interested in dairying. In 1904 he attended the Dairy School of the University of Minnesota, after which he began work in the Knapp Creamery. In 1905 and 1911 he took postgraduate courses. Mr. Norberg is a thorough expert at his trade, he is of a pleasant temperament that makes friends easily, he is a good business man, and is greatly liked and esteemed both in his work and in his social relations.

**Edward Taylor**, an honored and respected resident of Cokato, has had adventures in life such as fall to the lot of but few men, and the story of his war experiences fully told would make a volume in itself. He was born in London, England, June 8, 1843, son of John Edward and Dinah Sarah Dunn Greenwood Taylor. By her first marriage the mother had three children, Mary Ann, Dinah Sarah and William. By her marriage to Mr. Taylor there were three children, Henry G., Benjamin and Edward. The family left England October 9, 1849, and reached New York harbor January 1, 1850. They located in New York City, and there the father opened the first gold-beater's shop in that place. In the spring of 1858 Edward Taylor set out for himself. For a few years he farmed in Winchester, the county seat of Randolph county, Indiana. At the outbreak of the Civil war he went to Richmond, the county seat of Wayne county, Indiana, June 6, 1861, and enlisted in Company E, 36th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. He was mustered in October 23 at Indianapolis, under Captain S. R. Kerney. The regiment was assigned to the Second Brigade, First Division, Fourteenth Corps, Army of the Cumberland. This began Private Taylor's war record. He displayed his valor on many a bloody field of honor, and was a good soldier in every respect. Among the more important engagements in which he participated may be mentioned the battles of Shiloh, Pittsburgh Landing, Sparta, Perrysville, Nashville, Stony River, Murfreesboro, Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge and Atlanta. While on a foraging expedition he was captured. For fourteen weeks he was confined in the dismal Libby Prison. He was one of the first to escape by digging out of the death cellar. He and a companion called "Shorty" crawled through the passageway they had made and found their way to the river bank, where they floated down the stream twelve miles hanging to a bale of cotton. They then took to the shore. Their trail was followed by a pack of bloodhounds, fifteen in number. Private Taylor and his friend accordingly separated. Mr. Taylor



MR. AND MRS. EDWARD TAYLOR  
MRS. C. M. REED  
MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM TAYLOR AND CHILDREN





passed through a slough into the river, and then waded in the bed of the stream, thus throwing the dogs off his track. The disappointed dogs captured his partner, and Mr. Taylor watched them tear him to pieces, expecting that his turn was to come next. Neither Mr. Taylor nor his companion had any clothes, their only garment being a gunny sack, with holes cut for the arms and legs. While the dogs were killing his companion, Mr. Taylor lay covered in the mud, only his ears and his nose sticking out. Within ten feet of him were two big alligators. When he crawled out he had to tear the black leeches from dozens of places on his body where they had been sapping his feeble strength. One got into his left ear, and he broke the drum in getting it out. He finally made his way to a negro cabin, and after a long watch spied the negro "mammy" going out to milk. She hid him while she milked, and then took him to the cabin, where her husband gave him food and clothes. The next morning the husband carried him four miles on his back through the swamp and then set him on his way to the North. Soon afterward he was captured as a spy by Union soldiers and taken into the Union ranks, where he was finally released and allowed to rejoin his command. He was wounded at the battles of Shiloh, Stony River, Rockface Ridge and Atlanta. The wound he received in the head at the Battle of Atlanta prevented his finishing the March to the Sea with his regiment, and he was sent to the hospital at Nashville. From there he was transferred to the Eleventh Regiment, Veteran Reserves. While he was recovering he carried mail for the barracks at Cincinnati and later guarded Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout. He was discharged at Washington, D. C., September 21, 1864. He reenlisted March 14, 1865, in Company H, Fifth Ohio Cavalry, under Colonel Thomas Heath. October 30, 1865, at Charlotte, N. C., under General Orders No. 144, U. S. War Department, he received his final honorable discharge. Having thus fulfilled his duty to his country, he returned to Randolph county, Indiana, where he spent the winter. In the spring of 1866, Edward Taylor, Jesse Bales and William Adamson started out for Minnesota with sixteen horses. March 21, 1866, they landed at the shack of Joel Bales, on the shores of Lake Rebecca, in Rockford township, this county. Edward Taylor worked the first summer on the farm of Joel Bales. Then he went into the pine woods and worked as a chopper, a cook, a raftsmen and a steamboat employe. In the summer of 1869, 1870 and 1871 he was on the government survey under T. B. Walker, of Minneapolis. In the fall of 1871 he married Mary C. Reed, who was born in Rockford, Ill., February 13, 1852, daughter of Stillman O. and Caroline M. (Kock) Reed, who located in Shanhausen township, Carver county, in 1856, and took a homestead in French Lake, Wright county, in 1868. After Edward Taylor was married he

went to Morrison county in the fall of 1872 and picked out a homestead, onto which he and his bride moved in February, 1873. There they resided until 1880, when they moved to Cokato, where they have since lived. Mr. Taylor belongs to Willmar Post, No. 125, G. A. R., and Golden Rule Lodge, No. 82, I. O. O. F. Mrs. Taylor belongs to the Eastern Star and the Royal Neighbors. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor have two children. Henry S. lives in Cokato. He married Maude A. Golladay, of Annandale, and they have two children, Harry J. E. and Mildred Jessie. Emma J. is the wife of Frank Friend, of Tonica, Ill.

**John C. Watson**, a prosperous citizen of Cokato, was born in Wetzel county, in what is now West Virginia, December 5, 1857, son of John C. Watson, Sr., and Tena (Cambridge) Watson. As a young man he traveled extensively, being for a while freight agent for the B. B. & B. C. R. R. in the state of Washington. It was in 1865 that he came to Montrose, in this county, with his parents, and in 1867 he came with them to Cokato township. He moved to Iowa in 1881, but after a year he returned to the farm in Cokato. In 1887 he went to the state of Washington, but after two years there, again returned to the farm in Cokato. He has lived continuously on his present farm since 1889. From 1880 to 1886 he had charge of the Cargill Elevator at Smith Lake. There he did most excellent work and made many friends, giving satisfaction to his employers and winning the confidence of the farmers with whom he dealt. He has been very successful in his general farming operations, and makes a specialty of raising a good grade of stock. For fifteen years he has been clerk of his school district and for three years director. Under his care the place, which consists of eighty acres in section 26, has greatly improved, and he is regarded as one of the leading men of the community. He belongs to Cokato Lodge, No. 134, A. F. & A. M., and his wife is a member of the Eastern Star. Mr. Watson was married in 1881 to Eunice La Salle, born in New York state, daughter of Marcus and Mary (Wilber) La Salle, who were also born in New York, but who spent the greater part of their lives as farmers in Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Watson have four children: Zoa, John Charles, Herbert Clinton and Maude, all living at home.

**John C. Watson, Sr.**, was born in Marion county, Virginia, son of William Watson and nephew of David Watson, a soldier in the Revolutionary war. He was reared and educated in his native county, and married Orilla Mason. As a youth he learned two trades, those of stonemason and shoemaker, and in these occupations he earned his livelihood. He moved to what is now Wetzel county in West Virginia, and there three of the children, Elizabeth, Lucinda and Malissa, died. Several of the children were born there. In 1865 he started for the Northwest with his family,

consisting of his wife and his children, Augustus, Leander, James, Susannah, John C., William, Alexander, Thornton and Rhoda. They came by boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to St. Paul. From there they came to Minneapolis, and then by horse team they came on to Montrose, in Wright county, where they remained for some two years. In 1866 he secured a tract of eighty acres in section 26, Cokato township. A trail led past the claim. He erected a small cabin of logs and began to clear the place. He fortunately had a pair of oxen and three cows. In April, 1867, he moved his family into the cabin. St. Anthony was then the trading point, and members of the family sometimes walked there after supplies. John C. Watson, Sr., died in 1869, in the faith of the Baptist church. His wife died in August, 1866. From the old home the family has scattered far and wide, and the only one that remains there is John C., Jr., who successfully carries on general farming.

**George J. Cramer**, a prosperous farmer of Delano, where he owns 121 acres of good land in the outskirts, and carried on general farming, together with high-class stock raising, was born March 25, 1870, in Carver county, son of Joseph and Augusta (Blatz) Cramer, who came to Wright county when he was one year of age and located in sections 2 and 11 on the farm now occupied by the son. Mr. Cramer was reared on this place, passed through the Delano schools, and learned farming from his father. George J. Cramer was married May 30, 1899, to Antoinette Zachman, the daughter of Thomas Zachman, and they have seven children, Wendelin, Leander, Varina, Anthony, Armella, Irene and Walter, all of whom live at home. The family faith is that of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, of Delano, and Mr. Cramer is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters.

**Joseph Cramer** was born in Washington county, Ohio, March 24, 1834, son of Joseph Cramer, Sr. In 1852 he came to Carver county and took a claim of 160 acres. Here he underwent the typical experiences of pioneer life. He cut and hauled the logs for a small cabin, broke and cleared the land, later erected a larger log cabin, and in time was enabled to build a frame house. In 1870 he came to Wright county, and for some thirty-eight years engaged in the meat business in Delano. Mr. Cramer was married, May 12, 1862, at St. Bonifacius, to Augusta Blatz, who was born in Baden, Germany, August 27, 1843, daughter of Bernard Blatz, came to America with her parents in 1861, and located at St. Bonifacius. Mr. and Mrs. Cramer were the parents of ten children: Frank was born March 27, 1863, and lives in Minneapolis. Joseph was born October 16, 1864, and also lives in Minneapolis. Rosa was born April 4, 1866, and married Frank Swadner, of Franklin township. Anna Louise was born October 17, 1867, and is now Mrs. Smith, of Minneapolis. George was



born March 27, 1870, and lives in Delano. William was born December 3, 1871, and died July 24, 1876. Marie was born August 8, 1874, and lives in Minneapolis. John A. was born November 13, 1877, and also lives in Minneapolis. Mary was born March 16, 1881, and died the same day. Louis F. was born January 25, 1885, and died March 24, 1885. Joseph Cramer died March 24, 1896. His wife still resides in Buffalo.

**Andrew Pogreba**, mayor of Delano, was born in Germany, November 30, 1855, son of Urban and Agnes (Hallek) Pogreba. The parents were most substantial people, and the father was a veteran of the War of 1848. In the family there were eight sturdy sons, John, Thomas, Jacob, Andrew, Albert, Peter, Robert and William. Andrew Pogreba was reared in Germany, attended the public schools, and as a youth learned the trade of baker. In 1873 he came to America, and after working a month in Chicago, arrived in Delano. Here he began work along the right of way of the Great Northern. His ability and intelligence attracted attention, and he soon became section foreman. Still later he was made roadmaster. By frugal savings he was enabled to purchase a store in Everest Village, Cass county, North Dakota, in the year 1890, but the store was burned five years later, and he returned to Delano. In 1910 he purchased his present farm, where he raises good crops and good live stock, and has been most successful in his undertakings. In the spring of 1914 he was elected mayor of Delano by a substantial majority. Mayor Pogreba was married, September 6, 1879, to Emma Torgerson, a native of Norway, daughter of Absolom Torgerson and Rachel (Christopher) Torgerson, early settlers of Swift county, this state. Mr. and Mrs. Pogreba have eight children: Anna, Leo, John, Peter, Nora, Minnie, Elizabeth and Agnes. Anna married S. R. Berg, of Minneapolis. Peter married Julia Jacobson. They live in Minneapolis. Leo married Frances Pogreba. They live in Montrose. John lives in South Dakota. The family attend the Catholic church.

**Adam Horsch**, man of affairs, living in Delano, was born in Franklin township, this county, May 9, 1860, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Horsch, the pioneers. He attended the district schools and was reared to farm pursuits and is now the owner of the old homestead. In 1892 he came to Delano, erected lumber yards and sheds and engaged in the lumber business. Beginning on a small scale, his industry, honest dealing and genial temperament caused the business to increase rapidly. Soon he was dealing on a large scale in all kinds of building supplies and fuel. In 1909 he sold out to the Midland Lumber & Coal Company. Then he engaged for two years in the automobile business. Since he sold out in 1912 he has devoted his time to looking after his extensive interests and holdings. He resides in one of the finest residences



ANDREW POGREBA AND FAMILY



in the village of Delano. It was erected in 1901, and is a model village home in every particular. Mr. Horsch has intimately identified himself with the life of Delano. He has been a member of the village council twelve years, and president four different terms. He has also served thirteen years on the school board, ten years of which he has been president. The M. W. A. lodge finds him a valuable member. Among his other business interests may be mentioned the fact that he is a stockholder and director in the State Bank of Delano. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Horsch was married March 2, 1897, to Mary Wildele, and they have seven children: Caroline, Margaret, Edmund, George, Veronica, Isabelle and Carl.

**Jacob Horsch**, one of those early settlers whose courage, industry and faith had so important a part in the developing of Wright county, was born in Baden, Germany, November 11, 1825, and there received his early education. It was in 1853 that he came to America and located in Bordentown, N. J. In that town he was married, August 21, 1853, to Elizabeth Ehrmann, who was born in Baden, Germany, September 3, 1831, and came to America the same year that he did. In 1854 they removed to Chicago, and there lived four years. From October, 1858, dates their residence in this county. In that month they came to Franklin township and took a homestead of eighty acres in section 4, Franklin township. This tract was covered with brush and trees and untouched by the hand of man. They built a log house and a log barn, broke and "grubbed" the land, and underwent all the hardships incident to pioneer life. As time passed, their hard work received its reward, and they became prosperous and influential members of the community. A good frame house and roomy outbuildings took the place of the original log structures, and the farm became one of the best in the neighborhood. Jacob Horsch served in Company E, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry during the Civil war. He and his wife both died on the home farm, he March 22, 1899, and she May 7, 1903. Mr. Horsch was a sincere friend of education. He helped to build the first schoolhouse in his district, and served on the school board for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Horsch were the parents of ten children: Caroline (deceased), Rosa, of Delano; Jacob, Jr., of Franklin township; Adam, of Delano; Elizabeth, wife of William Pagenkopf, of Maple Plain, Hennepin county; Amelia, wife of Henry Schwerin, of Echo, Minn.; Andrew, of Franklin township, and George, of Delano. Two others are deceased.

**Fred L. Brandes.** Probably few people in the county enjoy a more general popularity than Fred Brandes, the genial and capable city recorder of Delano. His sterling worth, his undoubted ability and his accommodating spirit have won for him a place in the esteem and affection of his fellows that few





ANGUS McEACHERN

**Angus McEachern, Sr.**, veteran of the Civil war and retired farmer, now living in Delano village, was born in Nova Scotia, Canada, December 25, 1829, son of John and Sarah (Smith) McEachern, who spent the span of their years in Nova Scotia, where the family earned a livelihood by farming and fishing. In the home of these worthy people there were three sons, Alexander, Renald and Angus. Renald was one of the heroes of the Civil war, serving throughout the entire period of that conflict. Alexander was drowned in the St. Johns river, in his native province. Angus started out in 1852, and came to the United States, taking up his headquarters at Bolton, Me., and working for several years in the lumber camps. In 1856 he came to Minnesota and engaged in the lumber business in partnership with Isaac Staples. It was in the spring of 1858 that he came to Wright county, and took eighty acres of railroad land in the west half of the north-west quarter of section 5, Buffalo township. This tract was covered with heavy timber, there were no roads leading to it, and only narrow trails connected it with Buffalo and Monticello. It was two years before he obtained an ox team. He built a log cabin, and got in his first crops with the aid of an axe and a "grub" hoe. During the spring and winter seasons he still worked at lumbering in the woods and on the river "drives." At the height of the Indian fright he took his family and fled to Monticello, where for sixty days, while his family were safe in the stockade, he served on guard duty with the State Scouts. Later he enlisted in Company B, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served a year with the Army of the Tennessee. At the close of the war he returned to the farm and continued its development. About 1904 he retired and moved to Delano, where he now lives. Mr. McEachern was married in 1858 to Eliza Hopkins, who died in 1910, at the age of seventy-eight. In the family there were eight children: Mary, Renald, Angus, John, Hugh, Alexander, George and Archie. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**Philip Martin**, of Delano, whose fame as a raiser of ginseng has been widespread, was born in Athens county, Ohio, January 17, 1837, son of James and Hannah (Coon) Martin, the former of English and the latter of German descent. The parents were married in Ohio, and reared a family of twelve children. From Ohio they moved to Illinois, and from there in 1857 they came to Minnesota, arriving in Minneapolis July 4, and then taking a homestead in Franklin township. Philip Martin located on 160 acres in section 22, Franklin township. The land was covered with woods; no roads had been built to the place. Mr. Martin erected a log cabin and sowed wheat around the stumps of the trees that he cut down. When he needed supplies he drove with an ox team to Minneapolis, fording streams and picking his way

through the swamps and along the trails. July 26, 1861, he enlisted in Company I, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, the famous "Bloody Second," went south with that regiment, and took part in all its heroic marches, battles, skirmishes and engagements. At the close of the war he returned to his claim. In the years that have passed since then he has continued farming on the old homestead, a part of which he still occupies. For some time past he has made a specialty of raising ginseng, a venture at which he has been very successful. His neat and orderly beds receive the best of care, and the enterprise has attracted much favorable attention. Mr. Martin has never sought public office, but has done good service as justice of the peace. His fraternal affiliations are with the Watertown Lodge, A. F. & A. M., which he joined in 1865. Mr. Martin was married in 1867 to Caroline Osmer, of Indiana. She lived only a few years after their marriage, and upon her death left two children, Charles and Josie (deceased). Later he married Minnie Lisle, who has proved a capable and sympathetic companion. They have three children, James, Anna and Adelle.

**Jacob Rader**, a pioneer, was born in Pennsylvania, son of George and Mary Rader, both natives of that state and descended from German ancestry. The children in the family were George, John, Jacob, Henry and Mary. When the War of 1812 broke out Jacob was too young to serve as a soldier, but was finally accepted as a drummer boy. In this capacity his courage was highly commended. When he was older he joined the militia. He came westward to Ohio, married, and then moved to Rush county, Indiana. From there he went to Knox county, in the same state, and thence to Illinois. In 1856 he came up the river to St. Paul, arriving at that city April 18. He took up his residence at Shakopee, and from there went into the rural districts of Hennepin county. In his latter years he retired. Jacob Rader married Eve Treese, and they had eight children, Lewis, William, John, George, Adam, Washington, Jane and Nancy. Jacob Rader and his wife both died in Hennepin county.

**Washington Rader**, of Delano, a veteran of the Civil war, and a venerable citizen, was born in Rush county, Indiana, June 17, 1832, son of Jacob and Eve (Treese) Rader. He was reared in Indiana and Illinois and came to Minnesota in 1856. In Independence, Hennepin county, he found a claim to his liking, and there settled on 160 acres covered with wood. Fortunately a road led by the claim, but there were seasons of the year when it was hardly possible to make use of the thoroughfares as they then existed. Mr. Rader erected a log cabin and with a team of horses and a pair of mules started to clear the land. Thus for several years he continued to improve the place. February 24, 1864, he enlisted in Company I, Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry,

and was sent south to join the Army of the Cumberland. He saw much active service, was with Sherman on his March to the Sea, and participated in the Grand Review at Washington. He was mustered out at Louisville, Ky., and returned to his farm. He retired about 1893 and moved to Delano, where they have since continued to live. He joined the Masons in 1866, when he became a member of Watertown Lodge, No. 50, A. F. & A. M. He is now a member of Rockford Lodge, No. 62, of the same order. Mr. Rader was married in Illinois, in 1854, to Ann Burnett, a native of England, and they had five children: Winfield, Thomas, Abbie, John and Bell. In February, 1882, Mr. Rader married Harriett C. McKinley, an early school teacher in district 41, Rockford township. She was born in Beaver, Pa., January 10, 1852, daughter of William and Ruth (Powers) McKinley. By this marriage Mr. Rader had one child, Blanche, who died at the age of twenty-four. She had married Mark Williams, a Minneapolis druggist, and left one child, Emerson, born in 1905. By a previous marriage, Mrs. Harriett C. (McKinley) Rader had three children: Mattie B., Guy D. and Allie. Her first husband was John Murphy, who was born in Wright county, son of James and Hannah Murphy, who came from Illinois and settled in Franklin township in the early days. John Murphy was married in 1872 to Harriett C. McKinley. He died in 1879 at the age of thirty-three. Mattie B. Murphy is the wife of Thomas Rader, and they have two children, Vera and Clarence McKinley. Guy D. Murphy lives in Murdock, Minn. Allie Murphy is dead. She married Charles McDonnell, and left two bright boys, Russell and Gordon.

**William McKinley**, veteran and pioneer, was born in Ireland. At the age of nine years he started out for himself, and without a penny in his pocket worked his way across the ocean to join his brother, Thomas, in Pennsylvania. Here he grew to manhood, and in time married his brother's wife's sister. In April, 1857, he arrived in Minnesota with his wife and his four children, Matilda, Malissa Isabelle, Harriett C. and Emma. They located on 160 acres of wild woodland a mile north of what is now Delano, in Franklin township. Mr. McKinley erected a log house and with an ox team started to clear the land. When supplies were needed a four-day trip to Minneapolis was necessary. Sometimes, however, goods could be purchased at the little store of Adam Korn, at Greenwood. When the second of the two Indian panics came the family was just ready to harvest the first wheat crop. The mother tied up the bedding, and the oxen stood at the door ready to bear the family to one of the settlements. But the mother then said: "This little cabin and clearing, these few goods, are all we have. God can keep us here as well as anywhere." So they did not flee that day, though they were



afraid to stay in the cabin and slept that night in the willows. The next day a neighbor came with news of the Dustin massacre. Then Mr. McKinley placed his wife and the three children in the boat, and as they did not dare paddle or make a noise of any kind, they floated down the river to Greenwood, while he walked along the bank on the lookout for hostile Indians. Two days later the family returned. At one time Emma and Harriett C. were at home with the mother when at sunrise she started out looking for the cows. At sundown she had not returned. Having lost her way, she had wandered around and around in a circle and was entirely bewildered. Finally, after dark, she crawled out on a log which overhung the river, and cried for help. Sylvester Frederick heard her cries and came to her rescue with a boat. Often the family were without flour. Sometimes they were glad to even get some corn to grate up for meal. As the years passed, however, times improved. In August, 1864, William McKinley enlisted in the Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, serving until the close of the war. Then he returned and resumed his work on the farm. He was one of the early members of Rockford Lodge, No. 62, A. F. & A. M. After a long and useful life he died in 1897 at the age of seventy-six. Mr. McKinley married Ruth Powers, born in Pennsylvania, September 13, 1826, daughter of James and Ruth Powers. The other children in the family were Thornton, Fletcher, Harriett, Malissa and Caroline.

**Rollando M. Walter**, veterinary surgeon of Delano, was born in Belleplaine, Scott county, September 2, 1855, a son of A. B. and Hannah (Rolf) Walter. He was the first child born in that township. A. B. Walter was one of the founders of Minnesota. He was born in Indiana, and there married Hannah Rolf, a native of New Jersey. In 1852 he brought his wife and his two children, Nora C. and Costello, to Minnesota, and secured 160 acres of prairie land embracing the present village of Belleplaine. He was a physician by profession, but from his early youth he had wished to own land, and when Minnesota was opened to settlement he saw his opportunity for realizing his long-cherished dream. When he arrived, Minnesota had already been admitted as a territory and several settlements had sprung up, but the part of the state in which he settled was still overrun with Indians, and the few whites there were Frenchmen from Canada, or half-breed descendants of the early traders. He erected a log house, broke the land, and began farming operations. He still continued his practice as a physician, and often he rode to his patients fifty miles away, going on horseback and picking his way along Indian trails, through swamps, and over creeks and rivers. He helped to organize the township and was one of its first officers. He also helped to organize the Christian church at Belleplaine. After a long and useful life filled with good works he died at the age



R. M. WALTER



of seventy-four. His wife died at the age of seventy-three. The children born in Minnesota were Rollando M., Alice and Dora. Rollando M. Walter was the only boy in the family. He attended the schools of Belleplaine, and also the Minneapolis high school. Later he graduated from the Kansas City Veterinary School. In order to perfect himself more thoroughly in chemistry, he clerked for a while in a drugstore in Minneapolis. Then he practiced his profession in southwestern Kansas, Colorado and Oklahoma. For five years he raised and dealt in high-grade horses. In 1882 he came to Delano and opened an office, and has since remained in practice here. A thorough master of his profession, a lover of animals, and a man of the most humane instincts, he has made himself popular for many miles around. He has done good work as health officer, and as a justice of the peace for the past twenty-two years he has been noted for his fairness and sound judgment. For several terms he has been a member of the schoolboard. He belongs both to the Masons and the Odd Fellows. Mr. Walter was married in 1882 to Minnie B. Knott, a native of Carver county, and daughter of Thomas and Eunice (Sweet) Knott. Mr. and Mrs. Walter have four children: Rollando B., a mining engineer, and a graduate from the University of Minnesota; Leslie Earl, who is a foreman in the smelting works at Butte, Mont.; Clyde, who is employed by the Great Northern, and Claire A., a teacher and a graduate from the Mankato State Normal School. Thomas Knott was born in Ireland and his wife in Canada. They were married in Canada and came to Minnesota in the fifties. He died in 1906 at the age of seventy-eight. The children in the family were: George, Henry, Walter, Minnie, Lillie, William, John and Elizabeth.

**Peter Welker**, the pioneer, was born in Ohio, August 18, 1818, son of John Welker, who had moved from Pennsylvania and settled in Clark county, Ohio. The family is of German descent, the American branch dating back previous to the Revolution. Peter Welker was reared in Clark county, Ohio, and was there married in 1840 to Eleanor Creamer, a native of New York. They moved from Ohio to Cumberland county, Illinois, and there he followed his trade as a blacksmith and also did considerable farming. In the spring of 1857 the family consisted of Peter Welker and his wife, with their six children, Judson, Atwood, Clarine, Darwin, Eliza and Harvey. This little party set out for the Northwest with the household goods and a few cattle, their wagons being drawn by oxen and mules. After a long, hazardous trip of eight weeks they camped on the edge of Carver county, Minnesota, on the night of July 6. July 11 they reached Wright county. Following the trail through the wild woods along the section line, they reached a claim in section 25, Franklin township. This claim, consisting of 160 acres, they purchased for



\$2.50 an acre. They erected a log cabin, and started their life in the wilderness, surrounded by trees, brush and mosquitoes. Supplies were obtained by going to St. Paul, a journey not at all easy to make in those days when the country was first being opened. Peter Welker had left his blacksmith tools in Illinois, and he had some difficulty in getting any in St. Paul. But in the spring of 1858 he managed to get a shop set up, and in this he made the first plow ever manufactured in Wright county. He made ginseng hooks for all the early settlers, and even dug a considerable quantity of that root for himself. He made the first pair of "bobs" in the county. Previous to that the pioneers had used log sleds. He purchased the first kettles moulded in Minneapolis. They had a capacity of thirty-two gallons each and were for the purpose of boiling maple sap. Later he secured a potash kettle having a capacity of 120 gallons. This kettle and the first plow made are still in the possession of the family. After a time Mr. Welker sold part of his 160 acres. In 1872 he built a frame house. In 1883, after the death of his wife on August 23, at the age of sixty-four, he returned to Illinois. He then divided his time between Minnesota and Illinois until October, 1895, when he settled permanently in the latter state. He died at Wheeler, Ill., February 7, 1906. For his second wife he had married, in 1884, Elizabeth Davis, by whom he had three children, Clarence, George and Frank, born in Minnesota, and Hattie, born in Illinois. Mr. Welker was a prominent man, and held the office of supervisor in Franklin township for many years.

**Atwood Welker**, a respected citizen now living in Delano, was born in Cumberland county, Illinois, October 7, 1843, son of Peter and Eleanor (Creamer) Welker, the pioneers. He attended the district schools in his native county, and was thirteen years old when his parents brought him to this county. Here he attended two terms of three months each, in an old log school-house in Franklin township. As he grew to manhood, he decided upon agriculture as his future occupation. August 8, 1864, he enlisted at Ft. Snelling in Co. G, Second Minnesota Cavalry, and did service in the Northwest against the Indians. He was mustered out August 11, 1865. After the war he located on a farm and started on his own responsibility. This tract consisted of twenty acres of wild land which he cleared. In 1868 he secured an adjoining tract of ninety-three acres of school land in section 36. He erected a frame house, cleared up the land, and as time passed developed a most excellent place. Here he and his good wife toiled for many years. In March, 1913, they retired and moved to Delano, where they now reside. Mr. Welker early became a prominent man in his township, and took part in many public movements. He was on the town board for several terms, and president of the Lyndale Creamery Asso-

ciation for eighteen years. He belongs to the Odd Fellows at Delano, and the G. A. R. at Maple Plain. In the days of the Grange he was a most enthusiastic worker in that cause.

January 1, 1872, Mr. Welker married Mary Alice Wright, born in Erie county, Penn., August 3, 1851, daughter of Clark A. and Myra (Woolsey) Wright. To this union have been born five children: Hittie E., Edwin A., Rolland J., Mary, and David E. Hittie E., was born December 18, 1872, and died August 29, 1875. Edwin A. was born January 24, 1875, married Minnie Zieroth, and lives on the original farm of his grandfather, Peter Welker, the pioneer. Rolland J. was born August 24, 1877, married Mattie Low, and lives in Delano. Mary was born December 15, 1879, and married Edward Pickruhn, of Cokato. David was born January 5, 1883, married Clara Frank, and operates his father's farm.

**Clark A. Wright** was born in Unadilla, Otsego county, New York, July 6, 1827, son of Johnson and Mary (Bliss) Wright, who spent the span of their years in New York state. Johnson Wright was a farmer and tanner and also a shoe merchant. His father was Alpheus Wright. Clark A. Wright was reared on the home place, became a tanner and farmer, and in due time married. Two children, Leroy Smith and Mary Alice, were born. May 3, 1857, Clark A. Wright, with his wife and two children, started for the West to establish for themselves a home in the wilderness. July 15, 1857, they reached the Crow river, three miles south of Delano, in Wright county. He chose for his location, sections 26 and 27, Franklin township, buying out the homestead rights of Oswald Spoon, paying \$300 in gold. On this place there had been built a crude log cabin. Around the cabin a small clearing had been made. With this beginning they established their home, and it was not many years before the place became one of the best farms in the vicinity. The land was cleared and broken, and from time to time suitable buildings were erected. He later added fifty acres more, making 210 acres. Mr. Wright was a man of influence and served as supervisor of Franklin township. He was one of the first school officers in his district and took an active part therein. In this district Eliza Woolsey, a sister of Mrs. Clark A. Wright, taught the first school, this being the first in Franklin township. Miss Woolsey married Fletcher W. Ingerson and now lives in Minneapolis. Mr. Wright, who was a Universalist in faith, founded the Union Sunday School and was its superintendent for many years. He was one of the charter members of the Masonic lodge at Watertown, in Carver county, this state. During all these years of activity, Mr. Wright had been studying medicine. In 1874 he went to Howard Lake and opened an office for the practice of that profession. Since 1886, when he left Howard Lake, he has made his home in several

different places. Mr. Wright married Myra Woolsey, born September 1, 1826, in Ohio, daughter of Joseph and Mehitabel (Brown) Woolsey. Mrs. Wright died in 1896 at the age of seventy. The Woolsey family came of old New England stock, and some of the members have in their possession a mate to the wineglass deposited in the cornerstone of Trinity Church, of New York City.

**William Ziebarth**, a leading citizen of Franklin township, is a splendid example of the intelligent, educated type of Germans, who sought their fortunes in this new world, and have become a part of the very spirit, backbone and sinew of the nation. He has been active in town and county, he numbers his friends by the hundred, and his voice has ever been raised in behalf of those measures which he believed to be for the best of the community. Especially in the early days, when the other settlers were of much less education than himself, his advice was eagerly sought, and his intelligence and common sense, tempered with a genial vein of humor, made his opinions highly valued.

William Ziebarth was born February 1, 1838, in the Province of Posen, Prussia, Germany. His father, a small farmer, gave him a high school education, and at the age of fifteen he was employed as clerk or copyist in the District Court, of Samter, Posen, for two and a quarter years. In June, 1855, his parents with their eight children started for America, and after an ocean voyage of seven weeks on the sailing vessel "Hermine" arrived in New York. From there the family moved to Chicago, Ill., where the father died, January 4, 1856. In the spring of 1856 the mother moved to Minnesota with the three smallest children—William being the oldest and now eighteen years of age—for although William was offered a good position in a Chicago bank, he thought that he had had enough of office work in the old country, and wanted to be a farmer. Minnesota in 1856 could hardly be called an agricultural country. The railroad line nearest to Minnesota was the line from Chicago to East Dubuque. From there or from Galena, Ill., steamboats were running to St. Paul. St. Paul at that time consisted of little more than some scattering buildings on Third street. St. Anthony at the Falls had nearly as many buildings. Minneapolis was "non est." A baker shop near the corner of Hennepin and First streets, and a well with the celebrated wooden bucket were all that marked the site. A suspension bridge, however, had been recently built. In relating his pioneer experiences, Mr. Ziebarth says: "In St. Paul we were told that this country had plenty of government land open to settlement, and so we struck out for the Big Woods, as this part of the country was then called, and settled in what is now Wright county. Of the privations, tribulations and hardships of the first settlers the



present generation has no idea. While it was hard enough for a native to get a start, it was ten times worse for a 'greenhorn'—as we were generally called—to get along. Even the language was strange, for though I had studied Latin six years and French four years, English in those days was not taught in the German schools. I had never done a day of manual labor in my life, and so for me the pioneer experiences were still worse. For me to go out and cut down a tree was a 'sight for the gods,' but my first cutting of grass for hay will illustrate just how well I was prepared for farming. In Chicago, when getting ready to farm in Minnesota, I went to a hardware store to buy a scythe to take along. The dealer offered me two kinds, one a regular grass scythe and the other a long wide blade, intended for a grain cradle as I afterward found out. Now as the price was the same for either I took the cradle blade, thinking it would last longer. And by George, it took me all the summer of 1856 to cut, yes, I say, regularly cut, the hay for two cows, and no one was around to tell me how to do it. Our neighbors the first year were: Jacob Dietz and wife, Christian Barth and wife and family, Martin Luther and son, Frank Meier, Mathias Schaust, Peter Christian and Fred Ziebarth, my father's brother, all single men. The first potatoes were raised from potato eyes, which we prepared in Chicago and brought up from St. Anthony on our backs. The first wheat I cut with a butcher knife in about 1858. Before that we thought that wheat could not be raised, but for that matter we had no clearing to raise it on. So far, until 1858, we had no team. There were a few teams of oxen in the township, but horses were an unknown quantity. That year a man from Minneapolis came through the country posting large signs. It was the year of the gold discovery on Pike's Peak, and the poster started in 'Why Should You Want to Go to Pike's Peak When There is Gold in Minnesota?' Then it explained about ginseng digging and selling. We were not slow in grasping the opportunity, but while we received only four cents a pound, and later in the season could not sell any at all, nevertheless, even at four cents a pound, a diligent digger could make \$2 a day. This brought us money to buy a team of oxen, and I felt as proud at the head of my oxen as a great ruler at the head of a conquering army. Ginseng also furnished us the money with which to pay for our land. In 1859 or 1860, when President James Buchanan put the land on the market at \$1.25 an acre, I had learned not to buy cradle blades for grass cutting, and had also learned a few other things, so I went down to St. Paul and from a bank there bought a land warrant at \$1.00 an acre and thus secured the land. In 1861 or 1862 I was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln as postmaster at Cassell, in section 3, Franklin township, named in honor of some



pioneers from Hessen Cassell, who had settled in this vicinity. In 1860 I was elected town clerk of Franklin township. I also held the office of assessor in Franklin township and in Delano village in all a period of some twenty years. In 1872 and 1873 I taught public school in our home district, No. 48, but if the honored and scholarly Noah Webster could have heard me pronounce some of the English words he would have turned around in his grave." In 1882, Mr. Ziebarth was elected county commissioner, and held that office for six years. In 1884, while he was in office, the first iron bridges were built between Wright county and Hennepin county, and while the two Frankfort bridges with a total length of 345 feet cost \$20,000, through his opposition to building the Rockford bridge at that time at any such price, the Rockford bridge in question, 300 feet in length, cost two years later just half that much. In 1885, Mr. Ziebarth took the agency for the Home Insurance Co. of New York, the St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co. and the North British and Mercantile Insurance Co. This agency he has retained to the present time. When he took up this line of work he resigned his position as assessor, for, as he said, it was somewhat contrary to his sense of fitness and too much for his sense of humor, to assess a house for \$200 and then insure it for \$1,200. From 1902 to 1911, a period of nine years and one month, he was manager of the Delano Creamery Association. At the age of seventy-seven Mr. Ziebarth is as young in mind and body as many men of half his years. He still works every day on the farm in sections 2 and 3, Franklin township, where he located in the fifties. In the fall of 1914 he broke up some clover soil, covering about forty acres. No stump baffled him, and he felt as he did so many years ago when he was first getting his land ready for cultivation. In addition to his many other duties, Mr. Ziebarth is justice of the peace, and also vice president of the State Bank of Delano, a safe and sound institution in which he has taken a deep interest. April 10, 1864, Mr. Ziebarth was married by Gust Burkholdt, a justice of the peace, to Sophia Boerner, and this union has been blessed with six children: William T., now a prosperous business man of Herman, Minn.; Albert W., clerk of the District Court at Chinook, Blaine county, Mont.; Sarah, wife of Joseph Rummel, of St. Paul; Alvina, wife of William Riepe, of Annandale, this county; Emil, engaged in the machinery business in Delano, Minn., and Fritz, who now lives with his father on the old farm. Mrs. Sophia (Boerner) Ziebarth died in 1894. In 1897 Mr. Ziebarth married Miene Tomnitz, nee Sabien, widow of Carl Tomnitz. April 16, 1877, Mr. Ziebarth's honored mother died and is laid to rest in Franklin cemetery.





JAMES QUINN

**James Quinn**, a substantial pioneer of Franklin township, was born in Poughkeepsie, Dutchess county, New York, February 28, 1834, son of John and Mary (Hughes) Quinn. The parents were born in County Down, Ireland, were there married, and with one child came to America. Only two of their children lived to adult years. They were: James and Margaret. James was reared in Poughkeepsie, and in addition to receiving a good common school education became an expert bookkeeper and accountant. In 1856 he came west to Iowa, and two months later came to Minnesota. He filed by mistake on a piece of land lying on the Wright and Hennepin county line. Soon afterward he came to the place where he has since resided. This place was composed of 160 acres of wild land and no roads were near it. A squatter already claimed the tract, and Mr. Quinn paid him \$100 to relinquish his alleged rights. He erected a log cabin, started to clear the land, raised crops among the stumps, and worked hard to win success. Sometimes he walked to St. Anthony and Minneapolis for supplies. Sometimes he borrowed oxen from his neighbor and carted lumber into Minneapolis. Finally he borrowed enough money to buy a yoke of oxen, and with this help his circumstances improved, but it was several years before he had any ready money. When the Indians rose he enlisted in Company C, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers. After serving something more than a year on scout duty he returned home at the urgent solicitation of his parents. He put in his crops but before harvest time he enlisted in Company F, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, leaving his parents in the care of two men whom he had hired. After the war he returned and resumed his work on the farm. Some years later he sold forty acres, and still later on the remaining portion, erected a frame dwelling house and from time to time suitable barns and sheds. A progressive and useful man in every respect, he has been chairman of the town board of supervisors, town clerk and assessor, as well as serving in minor positions. He has also been an official of the school board. For some years he was a member of the G. A. R. Mr. Quinn was married shortly after the war to Sarah Stewart, a native of Ohio, daughter of Calvin Stewart, pioneers who located in Franklin township. Mrs. Quinn died in 1901, at the age of sixty-eight. There are five children in the family: Anna Rachael, Florence, Mabel, Sherman Howard (deceased) and James Harris. The farm is now conducted by the son, James Harris Quinn.

**John O. Turngren**, now deceased, was probably one of the most ardent advocates of the farmers' co-operative movement that the county has known. He delighted in the thought that he had helped promote the movement, and considered his work in this line as his greatest achievement. He was born on Oland



Island, Sweden, October 8, 1853, son of Ole J. Johnson and Karin Johnson. There were two other children in the family, August and Ole. John O. was the first of this family to come to the United States. He had been reared to farm pursuits by his father and at the age of nineteen came alone to this country and joined his uncle who was located at Stillwater, in this state. After his arrival he spent several years in the lumber camps and with railroad construction crews. During this period he learned the language, and devoted himself to the serious task of mastering the trend of modern thought, so that there were few men in his immediate neighborhood who were better informed than he on general questions of public interest. About 1879 he came to Wright county and secured eighty acres in section 30, Franklin township. Seven or eight acres had been cleared and a log cabin and barn had been erected. He finished clearing off the land, and to his original tract added another eighty acres and carried on scientific farming in a successful manner. Being a deep reader he adopted the plan of putting into effect the knowledge which he gleaned from books and papers, and the result was that his agricultural operations were conducted along the latest approved methods. John O. Turngren saw more or less of public life and did good service in every office to which he was elected. For many years he was chairman of the town board of Franklin township, as well as justice of the peace. He helped to organize the Co-Operative Creamery of Montrose, and served as its first president. For eight years, until his death, January 1, 1914, he was its secretary and manager. He also helped to organize the Farmers' Mercantile Company and was its president until death. He was an Odd Fellow, member of the Rebekahs, and member of the Encampment. Mr. Turngren was married December 17, 1882, to Sarah C. Norberg, born June 1, 1862, daughter of Andrew and Fredericka (Vickstrum) Norberg, who in 1881 came to this country bringing their four children, Andrew G., Sarah C., Charles E. and Anna Sophia, and settled in Marysville, Wright county. Mr. and Mrs. Turngren had nine children: Victoria, wife of Alexander Berthiaume, of Aiken county, this state; Ellen, a teacher; Louis, Oscar, Grant, Agnes, Clara, Nettie and Annie, who died when three years of age. The farm is now carried on by Mrs. Turngren and the family.

**Clark Sturman**, a well-known farmer of Franklin township, was born in a log house on section 23, in the township where he still resides, August 10, 1867, son of Riley Sturman, the pioneer, and grandson of Thomas Sturman, one of the founders of Ohio. Clark Sturman received such education as he could in attending the district schools in the winter. His agricultural training was received by working with his father on the farm. In fact, he helped to clear off several acres of the home place. At the age of





MR. AND MRS. RILEY STURMAN

eighteen, he left home. For the next few years he had many interesting adventures in North and South Dakota, Montana, Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma, part of the time as a well driller for the Great Northern. In 1898 he purchased a tract of 120 acres in section 25. This, even at that recent date, was all wild. He cleared the land, brought it under cultivation, built a house and barns, and developed a splendid farm. In 1903 he purchased 170 acres in sections 25 and 36. This place also he has developed in many ways. Mr. Sturman is a good farmer and has been very successful in his activities. He raises excellent stock and carries on general farming. For twelve years past he has been assessor of Franklin township, and has given general satisfaction. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Blue Lodge and the Chapter of the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the United Workmen. Mr. Sturman was married January 22, 1899, to Malissa Eckelberry. They have six children: Alice F., born March 26, 1900; Dora, born February 23, 1902; Raymond Riley, August 5, 1903; Leola, March 5, 1905; Lester Lawton, August 2, 1907; Royal, February 5, 1908.

**Riley Sturman**, a worthy pioneer, and venerable veteran of the Civil war, now deceased, was born in Coshocton county, Ohio, May 16, 1830, son of Thomas Sturman, a native of Virginia. Riley Sturman received his education in the schools of his native state. At the age of seventeen he moved to Greenup, Cumberland county, Illinois, where he farmed and did railroad work. In the spring of 1855 he started for Wright county, reaching here in the early part of July. On July 3, 1855, he and his uncle, Samuel Sturman, cut the first road through what is now the village of Delano. It was a crude affair, but enabled their oxen to get through to section 23, Franklin township, where, on July 4, Riley Sturman took a claim of 160 acres and erected a pre-emption shanty. He broke the land and engaged in farming. In time he erected a log house. In 1863, just as he was getting well started in his farming operations, he enlisted in Co. D, Hatch's Battalion, Independent Cavalry, and served some two years in the Northwest. He was honorably discharged at Ft. Snelling in 1865, and returned to his farm. Gradually he improved and developed the place, until it was a splendid estate in every particular. In 1869 he built a frame house, and other buildings were also constructed from time to time as the necessity presented itself. Mr. Sturman was a natural leader among his fellows. For twenty-five years he served continuously on the school board. In 1876 he was assessor. For three years he was chairman of the town board. In addition to this he served on many committees and delegations. He died, sincerely mourned and beloved, July 11, 1913, after an illness of several months. At that time it was written of him: "Mr. Sturman was numbered among the early, hardy



pioneers, who braved the rigors of frontier life and made Minnesota what it is. He was among the first to blaze the trails into the mighty forests, making a home for himself and family, and sharing with his neighbors the trials that mark the pioneer's life. In all, he was an obliging neighbor, ever ready to help the needy. He was a good husband and a kind father, and, being blessed with a strong constitution, he proved an able helpmate in supplying the needs of a large family.' His widow, who worked shoulder to shoulder with him through all their married life, now lives in section 25, Franklin township. Riley Sturman was married January 1, 1857, to Louisa Murphy. They were the first couple married in Watertown, Minn. Thirteen children were born: Mary Ann is the wife of Thomas Worthy, of Rogers, Benton county, Arkansas; Eleanor married Edward Burke, and died in 1887; Matilda married W. H. Moxon, and died in 1889 at Hot Sulphur Springs, Colo; Hannah died at the age of two years, two months and twenty-two days, in 1863; Ichabod died in Lisbon, N. D., December 2, 1889; Clark lives in Franklin township; James lives in Black Duck, Minn.; Samuel S. and John live in Deary, Idaho; Almeda is now Mrs. Harvey A. Leighton, of Wayzata, Minn.; Bertha is now Mrs. McClellan Belt, of Delano; Lena is now Mrs. William R. Jabusch, of Minneapolis; and Mabel died in 1903. Lena Sturman was born in Delano, Minn., December 21, 1878, attended the public schools, and lived in Delano until her marriage, August 18, 1898, to William R. Jabusch, a native of Minneapolis, in which city they now reside, at 3210 Fourth street, North. There are three children: Irene, born August 27, 1899; Lucile, born June 17, 1903, and Florence, born January 20, 1909.

**William Sturman, Sr.**, a worthy pioneer, was born in Coshoc-ton county, Ohio, January 1, 1822, and died in Franklin township, Wright county, Minnesota, February 20, 1898. His father was Thomas Sturman, one of the founders of Ohio. The children in the family were four, John, William (Sr.), Riley and Emily. Of these, William (Sr.) and Riley came to Wright county in 1855. William Sturman, Sr., was reared in his native state and as a young man went to Illinois, where he married Sarah Montgomery, a native of that state. In 1855, he started out with a team of horses for Minnesota, bringing with him his wife and his two children, John and Laura (now Mrs. A. L. Hasmer, of the state of Washington). After an overland trip of six weeks they reached Hennepin county, where they decided to locate. A more favorable location, however, presented itself in Wright county, and they accordingly settled on eighty acres in section 25, Franklin township. This homestead is still in the possession of the family. The tract was then covered with heavy woods. No roads led to it, and no buildings stood on it. Mr. Sturman erected a log cabin and cleared the land. During the Indian campaign





CARL HAHNKE AND FAMILY

he served in Hatch's Battalion, and was injured by being thrown from a horse. After the war, he returned to his farm and resumed his work. In addition to clearing his home place, he assisted in chopping out the road between Minneapolis and Watertown. He was an early school teacher and helped to organize district 33, in Franklin township. He was an early school official, and an early assessor, and served on one of the first boards of supervisors. As the years passed, he became prominent in the affairs of the Democratic party, and was a delegate to numerous conventions. At one time he was a candidate for the office of county treasurer on that ticket, but though he ran ahead of his ticket, his party was then in a hopeless minority. Fraternally, he was a member of the I. O. O. F. The children in the family were: John, Laura, William, Viola, Clara, Mary, Rosetta, Rosella, Amanda and Robert. Rosetta and Rosella were twins. Rosetta died in infancy. Sarah Montgomery, the wife of William Sturman, Sr., died in February, 1896, at the age of sixty-two. She was the daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Montgomery, of Illinois. The children in the Montgomery family were: Sarah, Samuel, William, Joseph, John, Robert, Mary, Amanda and Ellen. The Sturman farm is now conducted by William Sturman, Jr., and Robert Sturman. They carry on general farming and stock-raising, and their farm is as good as is to be found in the community. Their acres are well tilled, they have all the latest improved devices and implements, and their grounds and fences are well kept.

**Robert Sturman** was born on the home farm, August 4, 1878. He attended the district schools, and as a young man learned the plumbers' trade. He now works at that trade at Delano, but still makes his home on the farm. He was married Thanksgiving Day, 1902, to Lucinda Eckelberry, and they have three children: Alton and Alta (twins), and Vernon L.

**William Sturman, Jr.**, was born on the old homestead where he still lives, February 1, 1865. He studied in the district schools, and since boyhood days has maintained a high standing in the community. He has been a member of the township board for the past six years and is now its president. For twenty years he has been on the school board. Fraternally he is a member of the I. O. O. F. at Delano.

**Carl J. Hahnke**, living in section 30, Franklin township, was born in Pomerania, Germany, January 2, 1852, a son of Lewis and Albertine (Wandke) Hahnke, who spent the span of their years in Germany. The five children in the family, Carl J., Amelia, Herman, Johanna and Lewis, all came to the United States. Carl J. was the first to come. He arrived in 1882 and located in Delano, in this county, bringing his wife and four children. For two years he worked on the railroad. Then for



ten years he operated rented farm land. At the end of this period he bought 180 acres in section 18, Rockford township, and there lived for seventeen years. He made many improvements and was very successful in his farming operations. This farm he presented to his son, Henry, and bought 115 acres in section 3, in the same township. This farm, in turn, he presented to his son, William. Then he bought a home and one acre of land in section 30, Franklin township, where he now resides. For six years he was a member of the Rockford town board, and for the past three years he has been treasurer of his school district. For thirteen years he has been local agent for the Farmers Mutual Insurance Company. He and his family are devout members of the Trinity Lutheran church and he has been treasurer of that institution for the past twenty-eight years. The present edifice was erected in Rockford township in 1881, and has been a powerful influence for good in the community. Mr. Hahnke is a good example of the manner in which a man may forge ahead. He borrowed money to come to this country and when he landed had but six dollars in his pocket. Now he has given away two fertile farms, and still has a sightly home and a neat piece of land. Mr. Hahnke was married in Germany to Johanna Wandersee, and they have had five children: William, Henry, Minnie and Amelia, born in Germany, and Carl, born in Wright county. Carl died at the age of ten years.

**Charles Fred Schultz**, one of the leading farmers of Franklin township, was born on the place in section 30, where he still resides, October 14, 1869, son of Henry Schultz, the pioneer. Henry Schultz was born in Germany, came to the United States, and settled in Wright county. Times were hard and provisions were scarce. Farm implements were to be obtained only with the greatest difficulty. The first plow that Henry Schultz used was brought by him on his back from Minneapolis. But as the years passed, times became better, and the family prospered. Henry Schultz died August 5, 1912, at the age of eighty-three. His good wife, whose maiden name was Lena Baling, died at the age of seventy-one, October 5, 1908. Charles Fred Schultz was reared on the home place where he has always resided. He attended the district schools and thoroughly learned agricultural pursuits from his father. For a time after he reached adult years, he rented the home place. In 1908 the old homestead of eighty acres was given to him. Another ninety-two acres he bought from his father for \$2,000. The next year he bought another eighty acres from his brother Fred for \$1,500. On the farm thus acquired he has successfully engaged in general farming and the raising of good stock. The home which he occupies was erected by his father, but the barn, 28 by 80 feet, was built by himself in 1911. He has also made other important improve-

ments about the place. He has taken an active interest in all things that have pertained to the growth and development of the town. At one time he was a stockholder in the Farmers' Co-Operative Store at Montrose, but has now sold out. He is a stockholder, one of the original members, and former director of the Montrose Farmers Co-Operative Creamery. His religious faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Schultz married Clara Langner, who was born in Berlin, Germany, March 30, 1878, and they have four children: Oscar, born November 12, 1902; Clarence, born August 30, 1904; Esther, born June 9, 1906; and Gertrude, born January 7, 1909. The parents of Mrs. Clara (Langner) Schultz were Henry and Hannah (Kretchmer) Langner, natives of Germany, who in 1884 came to the United States and settled near Montrose village in this county, where they carried on farming. They brought with them three children, Clara, Oscar and Selma; and one child, Emma, was born in this county.

**Rollin H. Crawford**, a representative farmer of Franklin township, was born on the homestead of his father, Rollin O. Crawford, in Rockford township, May 27, 1873, and was there reared. He received a good education in the district schools, and farmed at home until twenty-five years of age. Then he lived on rented property for a while. In 1904 he purchased 120 acres in Franklin township, where he now resides. Forty acres of the place have been sold and he still retains eighty acres, on which he conducts general farming and raises good stock. He is well known throughout the county, having gone about threshing for many seasons. He has served on the school board nine years. His fraternal affiliation is with the Modern Brotherhood of America. Mr. Crawford was married March 17, 1897, to Albertina Schir, a native of Germany, whose parents settled in Wright county. In the Crawford home there are seven children: Rheuben, Ethel, Lydia, Gladys, Marna, Eunice and Viola.

**Edmund W. Hayes**, a pioneer, was born in what is now West Virginia. James Hayes, his father, was a farmer and also operated sawmills and flour mills in the old days when the only motive power in each mill was a great waterwheel. Edmund W. Hayes grew to manhood in his native state and there married Susanna Lantz. In 1869 they brought their family to Wright county, and secured 240 acres on the shores of Fountain lake, in section 6, Franklin township. A little less than four acres had been cleared, and in this clearing stood an old frame building, sided up with rough boards. But though the place was crude and in the wilderness, the members of the family were glad to be once more permanently located after their long trip down the Ohio river, up the Mississippi river, and thence overland to Franklin township. They had brought a pair of horses

with them. Soon they purchased a yoke of oxen and started clearing the land. They put up a log house and a log barn and prepared as well as possible to begin farming operations. The first year they sowed about an acre and a quarter of wheat, planted two or three acres of corn, and in between the stumps put in as many potatoes and rutabagas as possible. With this beginning the Hayes family became one of the most substantial and prosperous in the community. Edmund W. Hayes died on the homestead March 13, 1870, at the age of fifty-four years, five months and five days. His wife died September 28, 1889. The children in the family were: Samantha, who married Silas Snodgrass; Ezra, of Wetzel county, West Virginia; Sarah, who married James H. Ferrell; Alexander, who married Mary Willey; James, who married Jane Hostile; Andrew J., Alice, Malissa, Nicholas and Simon.

**Andrew Jackson Hayes**, an influential farmer of Franklin township, was born in Grand township, Wetzel county, West Virginia, January 12, 1847, son of Edmund W. and Susanna Lantz. He came to Wright county with the family in 1869, and assisted in clearing the home place. While a young man he took 56 acres of the farm and started agricultural operations on his own account. Gradually he added to this tract until he now owns 270 acres of good land in section 6, Franklin, where he successfully carries on general farming. He has taken a special interest in farm development and is a director of the Farmers' Co-Operative Store at Montrose. As a hobby Mr. Hayes has become interested in bees, and he now has over 200 good colonies. His place is unusually well improved, and his lawn is one of the beauty-spots of the neighborhood. His fraternal affiliation is with Montrose lodge, No. 185, I. O. O. F. Mr. Hayes was married March 9, 1882, to Stella Streeter, born in Woodland township, Wright county, January 5, 1862, daughter of Levi W. and Margaret (Griffin) Streeter. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Hayes are as follows: Clara Bell, born April 5, 1877; Viola, born January 14, 1883; Theresa Myrtle, June 19, 1884; Albert Lea, August 11, 1885; John Henry, February 21, 1887; Cassie, February 21, 1888; Margaret, September 27, 1889; Levi W., December 7, 1890; William L., February 3, 1892; Bessie M., April 26, 1893; Joseph, October 27, 1894; Ethel, March 13, 1896; Andrew Hobson, February 22, 1898; Edmund B., December 27, 1899; Alva Forest, December 13, 1901; Lila Irene, September 1, 1904; Myron Harvey, May 15, 1907. Margaret died September 12, 1890. Viola, wife of Wells Pettis, died June 29, 1906, and left three children, Edna, Esther and Marjorie. Theresa married Charles Steinborn and lives in Minneapolis. Albert Lea married Emma Langer, and they live in Franklin township. Levi W. married Rose Otto. They live in Hastings, Minn.





A. J. HAYES AND FAMILY









WILLIAM A. CRONK

**Levi W. Streeter** was born in England, and was brought to this country by his parents at the age of nine years. He was reared in New York state and there married Margaret Griffin, a native of that state. The young couple then started westward, and just before the Civil War located on section 11, in Woodland township, where they secured forty acres. They erected a house of unhewn logs, started to clear the land and started an agricultural career in the wilderness. In their latter life they moved to Montrose, where they died. The children in the family were Stella, Nellie, Margaret, John and William.

**Sampson T. Bland**, who was cut down by death in the prime of his young manhood, is still held in loving remembrance. He was born in Virginia and was reared as a farmer. While still a youth he came west to Wright county, and after working in Rockford township for a while was married in June, 1881, to Mary M. Cronk, born on the homestead in Rockford township, March 27, 1861, daughter of William A. and Caroline (Samsel) Cronk. After their marriage he rented the Cronk homestead and was just starting in life, when he died in November, 1881. Their son, Sampson Frederic Bland, was born July 19, 1882, and now makes his home with his mother in Hennepin county.

**William A. Cronk**, a pioneer, was born in Pennsylvania, January 25, 1836. In the fifties he came to Rockford township, where he married Caroline Samsel, daughter of Jacob Samsel, an earlier pioneer. After their marriage they located on a pre-emption claim. Later they took a homestead of eighty acres in Rockford township. At the outbreak of the Civil War, he enlisted in the Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the conflict. His wife and children in the meantime were left at home. During his absence his wife dug ginseng, cultivated the garden, and thus helped support her two children. During the Indian uprising Mrs. Cronk took her two children and went to the home of her father, Jacob Samsel, in the same township. After the war Mr. Cronk returned and they located on their homestead. The vicinity was all wild woods. He erected a log cabin and set at work with a will to clear the land. Wild animals ran in the garden and often peered in at the windows. Fortunately he owned a yoke of oxen and these were of much help. The daughter, Mary M., now Mrs. Samuel Copeland, of Hennepin county, remembers leading the oxen as they worked. After the land was cleared Mr. Cronk from time to time purchased other tracts, until he owned in all 240 acres of excellent land. The log house gave way to a large frame dwelling, and suitable barns and sheds were from time to time erected. In politics Mr. Cronk was a Republican. In religious faith he was a Methodist. He gave the land on



which the German Methodist Episcopal church in West Rockford township was erected and also land for the cemetery surrounding it. Here he and his good wife are buried. He died March 15, 1881. His wife, who was born March 31, 1838, died June 18, 1875.

**Samuel Copeland**, a respected farmer of Hennepin county, has been closely connected with the pioneers of Wright county, his farm being but a short distance from the line between the two counties. He was born in Indiana, July 9, 1837, and came to Minnesota in the early days. He is now a successful farmer, highly regarded and esteemed in every way. In 1884 Mr. Copeland married Mary M. Cronk, daughter of William A. and Caroline (Samsel) Cronk, and widow of Sampson T. Bland. They have three children: Guy, John and Hazel. Guy lives in Franklin township. He married Mary Gonsier and they have five children: Clemens, Marie, Dorethea, Joseph and Florentine George. John lives at home. Hazel is now the wife of Oscar G. Lobitz and they reside on a farm in Carver county.

**Fred W. Wandersee**, an industrious and influential citizen of Franklin township, proprietor of the West Franklin Farm and general agriculturist, was born in Germany, August 22, 1836, son of Michael and Catherine Wandersee. In the family there were five children: Ferdinand, Fred W., Anna, Charles and Caroline. Fred W. was the first of this family to come to America. He was reared on the home farm in Germany, and in the spring of 1866 married Wilhelmina Jacob. Shortly afterward they set out for America, and after a long voyage of nine weeks landed in New York. From there they went to Watertown, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, where they remained three years. In 1869 they came to Delano, in Wright county, and bought eighty acres of wild land in section 32, Franklin township, covered with woods and considerably remote from any settlement of importance. Here he built a log cabin, and with an ox team cleared about twenty acres of land. Then he sold out and secured his present place of 160 acres. A log cabin had been erected and about twelve acres had been cleared. Mr. Wandersee cleared up the rest of the farm, constructed good fences and as time passed erected commodious barns and sheds. In 1896 he erected a brick veneer house. He has given his place the name of the West Franklin Farm. His success has been caused by ability and hard work. He had to borrow money to come from Germany to America, but he soon earned enough to pay it back. When he reached Wright county he had \$900, which he had made chopping wood, working on the railroad, clearing land, selling fuel and the like. He has ever been a good citizen and fully deserves the success with which he has met. Wilhelmina Jacob, wife of Fred W. Wandersee, was born

in Germany, November 11, 1839, youngest daughter of Charles and Sophia (Radkee) Wandersee, also natives of that country. Mr. and Mrs. Wandersee have had eight children: Charles, who died as an infant in Germany; Gusta, Emil; Otto, who died in Wisconsin; Martha, Rudolph, Margaret, and Henry, who died at the age of twelve.

**Emil Wandersee**, one of the active farmers of Franklin township, was born on the place where he still lives, June 20, 1868. He was educated in the district schools and reared to farm pursuits. He now operates the home farm in Franklin township, and here he successfully carries on general farming and raises good graded stock. He is a member of the German Evangelical church. The parents of Mr. Wandersee were Fred W. and Wilhelmina (Jacob) Wandersee, the pioneers.

**Mathias Schaust, Sr.**, one of the sturdy early pioneers, was born in Germany and was there reared. As a young man he came to America on a sailing vessel, being the only member of his family to make the venture. For a time he worked in the copper mines of the Lake Superior region and then came to St. Paul, where he was married. There also he met his friend, Peter Christian. In 1857 Mathias Schaust, Sr., his wife, and Peter Christian started out afoot from Minneapolis, bringing such supplies and comforts as they could to find a suitable home. On his shoulder Mr. Schaust carried a rifle and a ham. They found 160 acres in section 34, Franklin township. No roads led to the tract and it was covered with dense timber. They built a log cabin, "grubbed" out a small patch of land by hand and got in their first crops. It was a year later before they were able to get a pair of oxen. For a few years the partner remained. Then they divided their interests, each taking eighty acres. After the division was made the partner sold his interests to other persons and left the county. Mr. Schaust continued to make improvements on his eighty acres, assisted by his sons as they grew up. Mr. Schaust died in 1894 at the age of seventy-five. He was a devout man, and helped to build St. Peter's church, in Franklin township, the first Catholic church in this community. Mr. Schaust married Elizabeth Reichert, born in Germany, daughter of Peter Reichert. Their children were: Mathias, Peter, Frank, John, Elizabeth (deceased), Veronica (deceased), Mary and Anna. Peter Reichert brought his family from Germany to the United States in a sailing vessel and located on a farm in Hennepin county, seven miles north of Minneapolis. His latter years were spent with his daughter, Mrs. Mathias Schaust, Sr., in Wright county. In his family there were three children, Charles, Mathias and Elizabeth, all deceased.

**Mathias Schaust**, one of the substantial and leading citizens of Franklin township, was born on section 34, in the township

where he now resides, November 29, 1858, son of Mathias Schaust, Sr., and Elizabeth (Reichert) Schaust. He was reared in his native township and early learned farming from his father. His early education was meager. As a boy he attended district school long enough to go through the first primer. Later he attended evening school. At the age of fifteen he went to Rockford, where he learned the blacksmith trade, which for several years thereafter he followed during the winter months. During the other seasons of the year he worked on the home farm, although for a time he also did railroad work. After his marriage he still lived for a year on the old homestead, and then bought his present farm of eighty acres in section 8, Franklin township. Eighteen acres had been cleared and a log cabin with a small shanty attached had been erected. Mr. Schaust had a team of horses that he had purchased the previous year. With this team and a colt and four cows he started his farming operations. Gradually he has attained prosperity and success, and achieved a position as one of the foremost men of the township. He has erected a modern house and barn, convenient and attractive. To his original place he has added from time to time, until he owned 318 acres. On a tract adjoining his home place he has a tract on which he has erected a complete set of modern buildings, and on this farm lives his oldest son, Anthony. The lot on which is located the schoolhouse of district 31 is cut out of his original farm, the lot having been donated before he purchased the place. He has been supervisor of the township for ten or twelve years, and chairman of that body one term. He was one of the incorporators of the Delano Co-operative Creamery, and served a number of terms as its president. He also is a stockholder in the First National Bank, of Delano, and in the Watertown Telephone Co. While Mr. Schaust has interested himself in all branches of agricultural pursuits, he has of late years paid particular attention to stock raising. He has a herd of good blooded Shorthorn cattle and good grade horses and swine. Mr. Schaust was married in 1883 to Catherine Matter, born in Franklin township, March 10, 1861, daughter of Joseph Matter. Their children are: Joseph A., born December 15, 1884, and died at the age of twenty; Anthony, born August 3, 1886; Charles, born April 14, 1888; Veronica, born January 15, 1890; Kate, May 12, 1892; Angeline, April 21, 1894; Louise, August 13, 1896; Ambrose, January 17, 1898, and Clara, March 4, 1901.

**John Olif Kelsey** was born in Westmaland, Sweden, February 3, 1832. He came to America with his parents at the age of thirteen, and with them came directly west to Chicago, Ill. The father died six months after their arrival, and the mother died the following year of Asiatic cholera, thus leaving their three



sons and one daughter orphaned at a tender age. John Olif was the oldest. It was indeed a dark day for the young boy, left in a strange country without relatives or money, and with three younger children to care for. But kind friends came to his assistance and homes were found for his sister and two brothers. Having acquired some knowledge of the shoemaking trade from his father, he found work as an apprentice to a Mr. Reed, in whose employ he remained for seven years. In June, 1853, he married Brita Johnson, who was born in Sweden, and came to America with her parents, three brothers and one sister in the year 1852. After their marriage they made their home in Illinois until the spring of 1858. Then they started for Minnesota, coming by a Mississippi river steamboat up the river from Galena to St. Paul, and there taking a smaller Minnesota river steamboat to Carver. Their destination was the banks of Clearwater lake, where Waconia is now located, some ten miles from Carver. There being no conveyance available, they left their heavier possessions, and with some light baggage started to walk. One of the two children was a baby and had to be carried. Following the blazed trail through the woods they arrived, toward evening, at the home of Mrs. Kelsey's brother, Jonas Johnson, a pioneer well known to the early settlers of Carver and Wright counties. At his log cabin the weary wanderers found a warm welcome. They lived on the present site of Waconia for five years. Mr. Kelsey erected the first frame house in the village, helped to clear up the townsite, and worked at his trade as a shoemaker. When he sold his town property he bought a yoke of oxen, a plow, a harrow and a wagon, and moved to a rented farm three miles west of Waconia. There they lived until 1866. Then he took up a homestead in section 22, Franklin township, Wright county. He built a log cabin, and on May 15 moved his family into it. The same year he cleared off the timber around the house, so as to let the sunshine in. These worthy people endured all the privations of pioneer life. Provisions being very expensive, the family subsisted mainly on potatoes and corn bread. But soon he was able to clear sufficient land to raise an ample supply of food and better circumstances prevailed. After the sons grew large enough to help they assisted in clearing up the farm and erecting good substantial buildings. They also bought the second steam threshing outfit brought to this part of Wright county and operated it for many years. The wife and mother died after a lingering illness, July 3, 1887, and the management of the farm was turned over to the sons, in whose hands it still remains. The father died on the old homestead July 17, 1912. The sons and daughters are all living. Joseph, the oldest, lives on the homestead and devotes his attention to farming. Edwin devotes his time to farming and dairying on his farm



in section 15, town of Franklin. He was one of the organizers and first secretaries of the Delano Co-operative Creamery Association, one of the largest and best equipped creameries on the Great Northern railroad. He married Emma Kappe, and they have five children. Albert lives at home and owns a farm in Chatham township, this county. Kate, the only daughter, married Joseph Broberg, who owns a farm near Eagle Bend, Todd county, this state. They have five children. Ferdinand is a mechanical engineer and owns a residence in Park Falls, Wis. They have three children. Lawrence married Antonia Buch and has four children. He is a carpenter by occupation and owns a residence in St. Paul. Otto is a rural mail carrier and owns a residence in Delano. He married Ida Walgren and has four children. It is fitting that mention should here be made that the members of the family are sober and industrious and have always been ready to do their part in bringing about the better condition of the community in which they live.

**Ichabod Murphy**, a prominent and substantial farmer residing in section 1, Watertown township, Carver county, this state, has long been associated with the early pioneers of Wright county, among whom his father was one of the earliest. He was born in Decatur county, Indiana, August 10, 1841, son of James and Hannah (Palmer) Murphy, who brought him to Minnesota in 1856. He was reared to manhood in a log cabin in Franklin township, and as a youth experienced all the privations of pioneer life. He attended a log schoolhouse and learned agricultural pursuits from his father. Even as a boy he took a deep interest in live stock, and beginning at an early age he has been an extensive dealer. In 1871 he secured a part of his present farm by purchasing 134 acres. No buildings had been erected thereon and only a few acres had been cleared. He erected comfortable buildings, developed the land and was very successful in his operations. The house that he built has been covered with pebble dash, its interior has been remodeled and renovated, and it is now a model home in every particular. Mr. Murphy has added to his original tract until he now has 340 acres of rich land, well cultivated. He is one of the heavy patrons of the Lindale Creamery Association and has been very successful, both as a dairyman and as a raiser of good stock and diversified crops. Mr. Murphy is a member of Watertown lodge, No. 50, A. F. & A. M. Mr. Murphy is an honored veteran of the Civil War. September 23, 1862, he enlisted in Company C, First Regiment Mounted Rangers, and served in the Northwest against the Indians for some thirteen months. In June, 1864, he enlisted in Company F, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, was sent south to Kentucky and Tennessee and served some eleven months. Ichabod Murphy was married in April, 1870, at Minne-

apolis, to Rhoda Stewart, born in Ohio, June 16, 1843, daughter of Calvin and Delana (Whelpely) Stewart. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy have six children: James, born August 22, 1872; Ira, born November 4, 1874; Hannah, born December 15, 1876; Maude, born August 23, 1879; Richard, born August 18, 1881, and Viola, born September 22, 1883.

**James Murphy** was born January 28, 1817, son of John Murphy, born June 17, 1789, and Jane Murphy, born April 25, 1791. He had a sister Matilda, born August 16, 1809, and a brother Samual, born June 20, 1814. He also had eight half brothers and sisters: Tilly, born July 27, 1819; John, born November 22, 1821; Mary, born November 7, 1823; Jane, born September 2, 1824; Fanny, born February 15, 1826; John, born March 1, 1827; Matilda, born August 17, 1829, and Idiana, born July 23, 1831. As a young man, James Murphy married Hannah Palmeter. Their connection with the pioneer history of Minnesota begins with 1856, when, on May 22, they left southern Illinois and with a horse team started for St. Paul. Reaching that city, they continued on their way, and in due time reached the southeast corner of Wright county. For about a week they camped in the corner of Carver county, while they cut a trail to a claim that they had selected in Franklin township, Wright county. They had brought a few cows with them, and were thus better off than many of the settlers, but they had only the scantiest supply of tools and implements, and farming was a difficult proposition on land that was slowly and painfully grubbed out by hand. They got up a log house, 18 by 20, two stories high, built of unhewed logs. A few years later they replaced this with a cabin of hewed logs. As an incident of the hardships of the early days it is related that Rockford was Mr. Murphy's milling point, and the first grist he secured was from wheat that he had threshed out with a flail, taken to Rockford to be ground, and screened with a cornmeal sieve, thus furnishing a supply of coarse flour for the family larder. Mr. and Mrs. Murphy had six children as follows: Louisa, born October 29, 1839; Ichabod, August 10, 1841; Samuel, March 22, 1843; John, February 9, 1845; William, August 31, 1847; Josephine, August 8, 1849. William still lives on the home place.

**Calvin Stewart** was born in Vermont, the son of Oliver and Aline Stewart, both natives of Vermont, but descended from an old Connecticut family that moved to Vermont in Colonial times. He was reared in his native state and as a youth came westward to Ohio. He married Delana Whelpely, a native of New York state, who had been brought to Ohio by her parents. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart located on a farm in Ashtabula county, Ohio. In 1846 they left there and located in Rock county, Wisconsin, where they remained for several years. In 1856 they came to

Wright county and located in Rockford township, but later they settled in Franklin township. Their declining years were spent in North Rockford, where he died in 1891 at the age of eighty-six, and she in 1892 at the age of eighty. Their children were Mary, Olive and Oliver, Calvin, Sibyl, Rhoda, Sarah and Clara. Clara was born in Wisconsin, the rest in Ohio.

**Louis C. Thompson**, owner of the French Lake Creamery Company, was born in Cannonsville, Delaware county, New York, October 15, 1872, son of Frederick and Julia (Hanson) Thompson, who came to Blue Earth county, Minnesota, in 1874, bought land there and farmed there until 1878, then went to Lake Crystal and remained until 1885, then purchased land in Watowan county, this state, where the father still lives at the age of seventy-seven years, and where the mother died in 1901 at the age of fifty-seven. Louis C. Thompson remained with his parents until he was fifteen years of age. Then he started out for himself by working for various farmers in Blue Earth county. In 1892 he engaged in milling at Elkton, S. D., and there remained for about a year. It was in 1894 that he first took up the creamery business as a helper in the Riverdale Creamery, Riverdale, Watowan county, this state. He perfected his knowledge by a course in the dairy department of the University of Minnesota, from which he graduated in 1897. With this preparation, he took charge of the Upsalla Creamery, at Upsalla, in Morrison county, this state. From 1898 to 1901 he operated the Paynesville Creamery, at Paynesville, in Stearns county. In 1901 he went to Marshall, Minn., and there erected a creamery of his own at a cost of \$10,000. This he sold in 1902 and came to French Lake, where he had purchased the French Lake Creamery Company in 1900, but which for two years had been operated by employees. The first year that Mr. Thompson took hold of the establishment, the business was between \$8,000 and \$9,000 a year. The annual business is now something like \$30,000. Mr. Thompson is a capable business man, an expert butter maker, and a leading citizen. He has the faculty of imparting his enthusiasm to others, and he is determined that the vicinity of his creamery shall become one of the leading dairying districts of the state. He has the confidence of every farmer for miles around. His work thus far has resulted in most substantial good to the community. Mr. Thompson is a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank of French Lake and in the Farmers' Co-operative Store in Cokato. He has been clerk of school district 68 for six years, justice of the peace in French Lake township four years, and is now serving his first term as town supervisor. Mr. Thompson was married October 26, 1898, to Mary Hannon, daughter of Michael and Ann (Pendency) Hannon, the former of whom lives near Melrose, in Stearns county, this state, at the age of eighty-seven, and the latter of whom died in



1882, at the age of forty-nine. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have six children: Louis J., born May 13, 1901; Margaret M., born December 14, 1902; Julia D., born May 13, 1904; Bernard M., born May 15, 1907; Giles J., born August 3, 1909; and Harold F., born October 8, 1911.

**Emil A. Rousseau**, a progressive farmer of French Lake township, was born on section 15, in the township where he now lives, March 15, 1867, son of Peter J. and Mary Ann (Howard) Rousseau, and grandson of Ernest Howard, the first settler of French Lake township. Peter J. Rousseau was born March 2, 1831, and died December 20, 1893. He came to America from Belgium in 1862 and bought 100 acres in section 15, French Lake township, this county. There he went through the usual hardships of pioneer life, and developed a good farm. He married Mary Ann Howard, who was born February 15, 1833, and died December 15, 1893. She likewise was a native of Belgium. Emil A. Rousseau was reared on the home farm, received a good education in the public schools, and has devoted his life, thus far, to agricultural pursuits. In 1891 he bought 107 acres in section 22, French Lake township. No buildings had been erected on it, and only a part of it had been cleared. He has improved and developed the place in many ways. He now owns 116 acres on the level prairie, some half a mile south of French Lake Corners. He has erected a modern house, 22 by 28 feet, with twenty feet posts, with an addition 14 by 21 feet, with eight-foot posts. This is a very sightly residence and was erected in 1893. The barn is 30 by 50 feet, with fourteen-foot posts, and has a capacity of twenty-two cattle, five horses and forty tons of hay. The farm supports a splendid herd of Durham and Hereford cattle, and in addition to this the usual crops are raised. There is also a flock of Plymouth Rock chickens which are the pride of the owner's heart. The orchard contains fifty apple trees, twenty-five plum trees, and a plentiful supply of raspberry and strawberry bushes. Mr. Rousseau is a prominent man in the community and has been township assessor ten years, township treasurer ten years, township supervisor three years and township clerk two years. He is one of the stockholders in the Farmer's State Bank, of French Lake. Fraternally he associated with the M. W. A. at Annandale, having passed through the chairs of that lodge. Mr. Rousseau was married September 19, 1892, to Augusta Chevalier, who was born December 6, 1870, daughter of Julius and Adelaide (Lambert) Chevalier, the pioneers. Mr. Chevalier settled on section 14, French Lake, in the early days, and died November 19, 1887. Mrs. Chevalier died February 22, 1889. Mr. and Mrs. Rousseau have had six children: Elaine Theresa, born September 19, 1893; Hazel Celestine, born December 26, 1894; Pearl Adelaide, born July 7, 1896; Eugenia Elizabeth, April 15, 1898; Nereus



Rosalia, born October 20, 1899; Renel Emilius, born February 9, 1902.

**Andrew Jackson Phillips**, an honored pioneer of Minnesota, now deceased, was born in Indiana in 1826. He was reared in that state and as a youth was apprenticed to a carpenter from whom he learned the trade. In the fifties he came to Minneapolis, and from 1852 to 1862 devoted his time to hunting and trapping in Wright county and vicinity. At the outbreak of the Civil war he enlisted in the Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served four years. After his term of enlistment had expired he was honorably discharged and returned to Wright county, where he homesteaded 160 acres in section 20, French Lake township. He built a log house and lived therein while he made his living by hunting and trapping. The farm was sold in 1895, and Mr. Phillips then traveled about for several years. He died at Bellevue, Idaho, in 1903. Mr. Phillips was a notable figure in pioneer life, a splendid type of the hunters and trappers who are now passing from the life of the Northwest. He knew the wilds like an Indian, he had a knowledge of nature such as is possessed by few naturalists. His outdoor life gave him a genial, companionable disposition when with his fellows, and he was well liked by all who knew him. Andrew Jackson Phillips was married January 1, 1856, to Genevieve Howard, daughter of Ernest and Mary (Bridges) Howard. Ernest Howard was the first permanent settler in French Lake township. The old homestead in the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section 15 is now owned by Robert Gerrard, and is the oldest farm in the township. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips had six children: Josephine, who died in January, 1914, at the age of fifty-three; William, now living in Montana; Mary Ann, now Mrs. John Calander, of French Lake; Laura, now Mrs. John Cameron, of Two Harbors, Minn.; and Daniel and David, who are at home. Daniel is one of the prosperous farmers of the township. He operates the home place, and raises fruits, berries and bees, aside from the usual crops. He is especially proud of the results that he has achieved with bees. He has forty hives of Dark Camiolans and Dark Italian bees, producing some 400 gallons of honey annually, the market price being about \$1.00 a gallon. He also has a splendid orchard of apples, plums and cherries. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**Patrick B. O'Loughlin**, an influential farmer of French Lake township, was born in Leechburg, Pa., March 18, 1855, son of Michael and Mary (Butler) O'Loughlin, the pioneers. Michael O'Loughlin brought his family from Pennsylvania about 1858, to New York state, thence to Iowa, and secured a homestead of 160 acres in French Lake township. This tract was entirely covered with timber. He made a small clearing and erected a

cabin 16 by 20 feet, of unhewed logs, with a shake roof and board floor. The furniture was made on the place. The family was fortunate in owning a cow, but they had no other domestic animals. A hoe and an axe were about all the tools that they had for farming. Their cash assets consisted of \$35. But they started in with a will. Gradually the land was cleared, and the crops were larger year by year. They had no oxen until they had raised a pair from calves. It was ten years before they could purchase a wagon, and then they had to pay \$100 for a second-hand one. Mrs. Michael O'Loughlin, on several occasions in the early days, carried butter on her head from French Lake to Kingston, where she exchanged it for groceries, which she brought back in the same manner, making the trip both ways on foot. Michael O'Loughlin lived to see his farm developed, and many of his hopes realized. Comfort took the place of pioneer rigors, and the township became a settled community. Michael O'Loughlin died July 19, 1874, at the age of fifty-eight years. His wife died January 12, 1914, at the age of eighty-four years. In the family there were four boys and two girls, of whom Patrick B. is the oldest. Patrick B. O'Loughlin was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and grew to manhood as a farmer. His ambitions, however, turned to mercantile lines, and in 1881, with J. W. Connoles as a partner, he opened a store at French Lake Corners. In 1887 they moved their store to Annandale, then in its earliest infancy. In 1889 they sold out, and Mr. O'Loughlin returned to the home farm, which he has since continued to operate. The farm is one of the best in the neighborhood. All the buildings are good. The house is 18 by 24 feet, with fourteen-foot posts, and there are also two additions, one 18 by 20 and the other 12 by 20. General farming is conducted on a successful scale, a specialty being made of Durham and Hereford cattle, Percheron horses, and Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Red chickens. Mr. O'Loughlin was postmaster at French Lake eleven years. He has been on the school board over thirty years. For some twenty years he was town clerk and is now filling that office by appointment. He was chairman of the town board a term, and town treasurer five years. He is Chief Ranger of the Annandale Lodge, No. 839, C. O. F. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. O'Loughlin was married September 9, 1896, to Kate Murray, who was born April 22, 1863, daughter of Michael and Mary (Leahy) Murray, settlers of French Lake township, the former of whom died about 1884, at the age of fifty-eight, and the latter of whom died September 25, 1901, at the age of eighty-three. Mr. and Mrs. O'Loughlin have six children: Daniel, born August 10, 1897; Joseph, born December 2, 1898; Francis, born October 13, 1900; Mary, born December 4, 1902; Ruth, born July 19, 1904; Catherine, born December 9, 1907.

**Thomas O'Loughlin**, a respected citizen of French Lake township, was born in County Claire, Ireland, in 1834, son of Michael and Hannah (Maroney) O'Loughlin. The family came to America in 1847 and located in Vermont, where Michael O'Loughlin died in 1849. Mrs. Hannah (Maroney) O'Loughlin lived to be over ninety and died in Wright county, Minnesota, in July, 1914. Though a boy of tender years when the family arrived in Vermont, Thomas O'Loughlin secured work on the railroad. In 1850 he went to Hanover, Ohio, where he engaged in similar work. In 1857 he went to Davenport, Iowa, and remained a year. It was in 1858, the year the state was admitted, that he came to Wright county and located in French Lake township, where he secured a homestead of 160 acres in section 10. He erected a log house with a shake roof and a board floor, manufactured his own furniture, and started to develop a farm. He did not even have a stove, nor did he get one for five years, a crude fireplace of stones and a camp baker being his only cooking and heating device. In time he managed to get a pair of oxen, and thus the work of clearing the land was made easier. For several years he lived alone in his cabin. Only five families lived in this vicinity at that time. During the Indian scare he fled to Monticello for protection. Gradually, as the result of his hard work, the land was developed and improved, buildings were erected, and the neighborhood was settled up. Mr. O'Loughlin is now a prosperous, successful man. The position he occupies in the esteem of his fellow men is shown by the fact that he has served as town supervisor for seven years. For four years the French Lake postoffice was kept at his home. Mr. O'Loughlin was married April 16, 1863, to Susan Mooney, daughter of Thomas and Catherine (Powers) Mooney. Mr. and Mrs. O'Loughlin have had six children: John M. was born April 6, 1864. He owns land adjoining his father in section 9 and has held different town offices for a number of years. He was census enumerator for French Lake township in 1900 and 1910. Mary was born February 18, 1866, married Joseph Cavanaugh, and lives at Outlook, Mont. They have three children, John, Edward and Charles. Bridget was born October 25, 1868, married Louis Topping, of Fargo, N. D., had three children, Alice, Charles and Lillian (who died in infancy), and died in 1909. Cornelius was born in 1870, and died at the age of five years. Thomas was born March 11, 1873, and is now a leading farmer of French Lake township. Ignatius was born August 17, 1880, and is now at home.

**Thomas P. O'Loughlin**, a wideawake farmer of French Lake township, was born on the homestead in the township where he still resides, March 11, 1873, son of Thomas and Susan (Mooney) O'Loughlin, the pioneers. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools and has devoted the greater part



of his life, thus far, to agricultural pursuits. From 1903 to 1907 he rented a farm near his father's. From 1907 to 1910 he was employed in the railroads yards at Fargo, N. D. It was in January, 1910, that he purchased his present farm of 140 acres in section 10. He moved onto the place in October of that year. Mr. O'Loughlin carries on general farming and has been most successful in his operations. Mr. O'Loughlin was married October 7, 1903, to Anna Cavanaugh, daughter of James and Anna (Russell) Cavanaugh, pioneers of Corinna township in this county. Mr. Cavanaugh died on October 11, 1908. Mrs. Cavanaugh makes her home with Mr. O'Loughlin. Mr. and Mrs. O'Loughlin have three children: Gerald, born January 16, 1907; Mary, born May 8, 1910, and Catherine, born January 7, 1914.

**Charles J. Mabus**, a prosperous farmers of French Lake township, was born in Monticello, this county, January 6, 1877, son of August and Josephine Mary (Chamberlain) Mabus. August Mabus was born in Berlin, Germany, and was there reared. It was in 1858 that he came to America and found employment in the lumber regions about Menominee, Wis. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in the famous Second Wisconsin Cavalry. In after years he stated that of the 250 men who went to the Civil War at about that same time, from the Menominee saw mills, only he and one other ever came back, the rest having been killed or having died in the service. August Mabus proved a most valiant soldier. He took part in thirty-two battles, in addition to many raids and skirmishes, and was present at the surrender of Lee. He was never wounded in battle, though exposed to shot, shell and sabre so many times. After his return from the war he again worked in the lumber regions. Later he came to Minnesota. He died in the Soldiers' Home at St. Paul, at the age of about seventy years. He was a member of the G. A. R. His wife died in northern Minnesota in 1879. Charles J. Mabus was adopted at the age of two years by Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Donohue. Michael C. O'Donohue was born in Ireland and there married Bridget O'Loughlin. In 1858 they came to Wright county, and secured a homestead of 160 acres in section 10, French Lake township, which was at that time covered with timber. They made a clearing, erected a log cabin and started farming in the wilderness. Gradually they cleared the land and developed a good farm. At the outbreak of the Civil War Mr. O'Donohue enlisted in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry and served until the close of the conflict. While in the South he contracted a fever from which he never fully recovered. In 1884 the cabin was burned and a frame house was erected in its place. As time passed suitable barns and sheds were also constructed. Mr. and Mrs. O'Donohue were among the most prominent and respected people in the community. They gave their



adopted son a good home and parental affection and their name will ever be revered. For several years Mr. O'Donohue was county commissioner. For twenty years he was township clerk, and served as justice of the peace about the same period. He also served for a time on the township board. He died August 11, 1896, at the age of sixty-two. Mrs. O'Donohue now lives at Maple Lake at the age of seventy-eight. Charles J. Mabus has always remained on the farm of his foster parents. He was educated in the district schools and was reared to farm pursuits. In 1896 he came into possession of the home place. His farm consists of 120 acres of good land in section 10, where he successfully carries on general farming. He makes a specialty of raising Durham cattle, Percheron horses and Chester White swine. Mr. Mabus was married October 20, 1903, to Helen Cassidy, who was born in Clearwater township, April 16, 1884, daughter of John and Catherine (Connolly) Cassidy, of Clearwater township. Mr. and Mrs. Mabus have six children: Irene, born July 24, 1904; Catherine, born October 16, 1905; Mildred, born June 17, 1907; Theresa, born March 26, 1909; Lila, born February 19, 1911; Ruth, born November 5, 1912.

**Nels A. Hillman**, the prosperous general merchant of French Lake village, was born in Sweden, February 24, 1866, son of Andrew and Anna (Olson) Hillman. Andrew Hillman was born in Sweden, there married, and there spent his early manhood. In 1881 he brought his wife and four children, Anna, Elizabeth, Mary and Nels A., to America and located on forty acres in section 16, French Lake township. This tract was covered with timber. They made a clearing, erected a house 16 by 24 of hewed logs with a shingled roof and a board floor, and started to develop a farm. Gradually the place was improved, frame buildings were erected and the ground was cleared. Andrew Hillman died at Shell Lake, Wis., September 6, 1906, at the age of seventy years. His wife, who was seventy-eight on January 15, 1914, lives with her son, Nels A. Nels A. Hillman remained at home until he was seventeen years of age. Then he was employed by various farmers until 1889, when he bought a grocery store at 1551 East Franklin avenue, Minneapolis, and later sold it to P. M. Burg, who moved the goods to Shell Lake, Wis. Mr. Hillman then worked in the west some three years. Later he entered the employ of H. C. Peterson, grocer, at 116 Bridge square, Minneapolis. He then bought a grocery at 824 Hennepin avenue, in the same city. His next venture was when he took a homestead at Clam Lake, Wis., where he operated a farm, store and sawmill. Subsequently he sold out there and bought a general store at Winton, in this state. He opened July 3, 1901, and was burned out July 23 of the same year, losing practically everything. He at once rebuilt and again opened

his store. Later he sold out there and entered the employ of a planing mill at Winton. At the same time he bought an interest in the Shell Lake Boat Co., Shell Lake, Wis. After a year he sold out. In 1908 he opened his present store in French Lake village. This store has grown in size and popularity. Mr. Hillman is known far and wide for the excellence of his goods, the courtesy of his treatment. He has built a large trade and well deserves his unusual success. In addition to his mercantile interests he is a stockholder in the Farmers' State Bank of French Lake. While in Burnett county, Wis., he was chairman of the town board of La Follett township, and treasurer of the school district and of the township. At Winton, Minn., he was justice of the peace five years. He has passed through the chairs of the I. O. O. F. at Shell Lake, Wis., and of the M. W. A. at Clam Lake, Wis. Mr. Hillman was married September 13, 1895, to Selma Carlson, daughter of Erland and Anna (Anderson) Carlson, who still live in Frederick, Polk county, Wis., the father being seventy-three years of age and the mother sixty-six. Mr. and Mrs. Hillman have three children: Violet Elizabeth, born July 13, 1896; Anna Harriet, born September 29, 1898, and Philip Nels, born July 9, 1906. The family faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church.

**Anthony Guintire, Jr.**, an energetic farmer of French Lake township, was born on the home farm in section 15, March 2, 1876, son of Anthony Guintire, Sr., and Elizabeth (Nelson) Guintire. The father was a Belgian by birth, who came to Wright county, and here met the young lady who afterward became his wife. Her parents were also a pioneer family. It is interesting to note that during the courtship Anthony Guintire, Sr., was unable to speak or understand the Swedish language, the young lady whom he was courting was unable to speak anything but Swedish, and the friendship progressed with some difficulty. After they were married, Mrs. Guintire, Sr., went to school and learned English. Anthony Guintire, Jr., the subject of this mention, grew up on the home place, attended the district schools, and was reared to farm pursuits. When he was about thirty he started working in the lumbering regions in the winter, still, however, laboring on the home farm in summer. In 1900 he purchased his present farm of forty acres in section 4, French Lake township. He remodeled the house and in 1907 erected a new barn. The structure is 22 by 32 feet and is provided for the shelter of eleven cattle, two horses and fifteen tons of hay. Mr. Guintire carries on general farming and stock raising. Anthony Guintire, Jr., was married October 26, 1904, to Lena Mattson, daughter of Lars and Christine (Mattson) Mattson, of French Lake township. Mr. and Mrs. Guintire have three children: Helen Christine Elizabeth was born August 30, 1908.

Florence Ethel Elenore was born July 25, 1912. Another died in infancy. Lena Mattson, now Mrs. Anthony Guintire, Jr., was born June 18, 1883, the second of a family of seven boys and six girls. Her father, Lars Mattson, was born in Sweden, and at the age of nine years came to America. He is now a prosperous farmer, owning 60 acres of good land in section 21, French Lake township.

**Anthony Guintire**, an honored and respected early settler of French Lake township, now deceased, was born in Belgium, December 17, 1833, and died in Wright county, January 24, 1892. The years between these dates spanned a useful life of honorable hard work and earnest toil. He helped to develop the county and developing a good farm, and he reared a large family to revere his memory. His parents, Anthony and Mary Josephine Guintire, died in the old country. He was reared on a farm in Belgium, attended school, and there grew to manhood. April 14, 1865, the sad day when Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, he arrived in America. He found his way to French Lake township, this county, and in 1868 bought eighty acres in section 15. He hired the land cleared, built a log house 16 by 20 feet, of unhewed logs, shake roof and plank floor, and this started his career as a farm owner. The furniture was home made and he owned a yoke of oxen. Fortunately the family larder was always full, but there were still many rigors to be endured and much hard work before the farm was developed and improved. On this place he reared his family, on this place he continued to carry on his farming operations and on this place he died. Anthony Guintire was married October 13, 1870, to Elizabeth Nelson, born February 20, 1854, the youngest of the family of two sons and two daughters born to Nels and Elizabeth (Matson) Nelson. Nels Nelson came to America in 1869 and on June 24 of that year settled in French Lake township. He died in March, 1897, and his wife died July 1, 1886. Mr. and Mrs. Guintire were blessed with eight children: Paul, Peter, Anthony, Emily, Albert, Elizabeth, Mary and Anna. Paul was born April 17, 1872, and died in January, 1886. Peter was born February 23, 1874, and has always remained on the home farm. Anthony was born March 3, 1876, and is now a successful farmer of French Lake. Emily was born July 12, 1878, and died July 10, 1901. Albert was born September 11, 1880, and died July 4, 1900. Elizabeth was born January 23, 1882, and was married November 27, 1908, to August Matson, of Minneapolis. Mary was born July 9, 1885, and died May 12, 1914. She was married July 7, 1908, to John Becklund. Anna was born March 6, 1891, and was married June 23, 1913, to Joseph De Cheney, of South Haven, this county. They have one son, Donald William, born March 21, 1914. Mrs. Elizabeth (Nelson) Guintire, widow of



Anthony Guintire, was married December 11, 1894, to Eli Joseph, and by that marriage had two children: Emma, born June 26, 1896, and William, born November 27, 1898, who are living at home.

**Nicholas Burges**, a pioneer of Frankfort township, was born in Germany and was there reared. He married Mary Lambert, also a native of that country, and reared a family. He came to America, bringing his family with him. First they settled in Michigan and then in Wisconsin. It was in the late fifties when they came to Frankfort township and located in section 28, in the deep woods. He erected a log cabin and provided for the needs of his family as best he could. His first crops were planted between the stumps with a grub hoe. It was several years before he could get horses or oxen. In the early days he would often give three days of his own time in exchange for a yoke of oxen for one day. Sometimes he brought flour and other provisions on his back from Minneapolis. During the Indian scare he refused to be frightened, but stuck to his little cabin. The Indians did not come and no evil befell him. After a while he built a second log cabin. In this he was helped by Mathias Barthel, who married his daughter, Barbara. Mr. and Mrs. Burges reared a large family. One of the sons, William, served in the Civil War, and was killed at the Battle of Tennessee. Nicholas Burges and his wife are both now dead, and are laid to rest in the Catholic cemetery at St. Michaels.

**Mathias Barthel**, for many years a farmer of section 28, Frankfort township, was born in Germany, one of the family of five boys and two girls born to Bernard and Elizabeth Barthel, who spent the span of their years in the old country. Mathias came to this country on a sailing vessel, the trip taking 68 days. He and his brother Jacob came to Ft. Snelling at about the time of the close of the Civil War. Mathias was at that time twenty-four years of age. For a while he drove a government team in various parts of the country. Then he came to Wright county and located on the farm of Nicholas Burges, whose daughter Barbara he married. He helped Mr. Burges erect his second log cabin, and also erected a part of the present brick residence. He became a prominent man and served as town supervisor. Among other good work he assisted in erecting the three successive churches that have been built in St. Michael's. Mr. and Mrs. Barthel had eleven children: Nicholas, Mary, Christina, Margaret, Barbara, Mathias, Kate, Anna, Joseph, Alouise and Clara.

**Nicholas Barthel**, an enterprising farmer of Frankfort township, was born on his grandfather's homestead in section 28, where he still resides. He is the son of Mathias and Barbara (Burges) Barthel, and grandson of Nicholas and Mary (Lam-



bert) Burges. He was reared on the old homestead, attended the public schools and has devoted his mature years to agricultural pursuits. He has a splendid farm, with substantial buildings and ample equipment. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and sells cream to the St. Michael's Co-Operative Creamery, in which he is a stockholder. In 1899 Mr. Bartel purchased the old homestead and has made extensive improvements. Erected a fine modern brick residence, a large sanitary barn 40 by 76 and a number of other buildings. He is a progressive member of St. Joseph's Society and of the Catholic church. Mr. Barthel married Mary Dehn, born in Otsego, this county, daughter of Peter and Theresa Dehn, pioneers. Their children are: Agnes, Amelia, Rosa, Mathias, Leo, Veronica, Alvina, Norbert, Harold and Veronica (deceased).

**George Meyer**, an influential farmer and pioneer of Frankfort township, now living in retirement after so many years of hard work and earnest toil, was born on the old homestead in section 22, December 18, 1861, son of Conrad and Anna (Hochleiter) Meyer, who came to the United States in 1848. On their long voyage of sixty days their one child, Cresence, died, and was buried at sea. Upon landing they located at Allegheny, Penn., where Conrad Meyer worked on the railroad for ninety cents a day. There they remained about eight years, and there one child, Mary, was born. It was in 1856 that they came to Minnesota and located in section 22, Frankfort, this county. The tract was covered with woods, no roads had been built to it and all the country was wild. His first house was built of rails and was located where the woodshed now stands. First he cut down the heavy timber and then with a yoke of oxen and a jumping plow he broke the land. From his original tract he sold forty acres, but he later bought enough to make a tract of 182 acres. Pioneer life was beset with many difficulties, and he often had to haul flour and provisions from St. Paul. Gradually the place was developed and became a good farm. Conrad Meyer died at the age of 76. His wife had passed away at the age of 48. George Meyer was reared on the home farm, attended the public schools, learned farming from his father, and with the exception of a period of time he spent in the west he has always remained on the place until a few months ago. He erected a new house, and a round barn sixty-four feet in diameter and sixty feet high, said to be the most completely equipped and handsomest barn of its kind in the whole county. Other important improvements were also made. In the summer of 1914 the farm was sold for \$18,000. The place was originally secured for almost nothing, and the phenomenal rise in price represents the result of the hard work done on the place by Mr. Meyer and his family. Mr. Meyer is a stockholder in the cream-



MR. AND MRS. GEORGE MEYER



ery at St. Michael's and a member of the St. Michael's Shipping Association. Mr. Meyer was married September 4, 1888, to Margaret Irman, born in Minneapolis, January 22, 1868, daughter of Michael and Margaret (Gales) Irman, and this union has been blessed with fourteen children: Margaret, Nicholas, Peter, Mary, Josephine, Louisa, Lena, Rosa and Clara (twins) (deceased), Anklin, George, Laura (deceased), Rose and Lorena.

**Frank T. Aydt**, a retired resident of St. Michael village, a pioneer, and a member of the Minnesota Pioneer Association, was born near Baden, Germany, December 18, 1840, son of Theodore and Theresa (Vogel) Aydt, likewise pioneers. In the family there were four children, Augusta, Caroline, Frank T. and Theckla. The parents and these children came to the United States in 1851, and settled on what is now Como park between Minneapolis and St. Paul. They erected a log cabin and with a team of horses brought from St. Louis started to clear the land. In his latter years the father sold out and moved to St. Paul, where he ended his days. Frank T. Aydt was eleven years old when he came to this country. He was reared at what is now Como park, and learned farming pursuits from his father. In 1865 he came to Wright county and settled in Frankfort township, where Albertville is now located. Later he came to St. Michael and bought out the first store that had been started in the village. Henry Invie was the original proprietor. Soon after Mr. Aydt purchased the store a postoffice was established in it, and he became the first resident postmaster in the village. He operated the store until 1894, when he retired. He has a pretty and comfortable residence in the suburbs of the village and is spending his retiring years in rest and ease, enjoying the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact. Mr. Aydt was married in 1861 to Mary Ann Igel. She died in 1891 at the age of fifty-one, leaving nine children: Theresa, Theodore, Emily, Lena, William, Edith, Theckle, Ernest and Ignatz. For his second wife he married Mary L. Robertson, daughter of Joshua Robertson, who came from Maryland in the early days and located on the west side of what is now Como park, in 1853. By this union Mr. Aydt has one child, Veronica. The family attend St. Michael's Roman Catholic church.

**Louis R. Faue**, capable and efficient butter maker of Sunflower Creamery at St. Michael's for some sixteen years past, was born in Hennepin county, this state, February 19, 1879, son of Louis and Mary (Shultz) Faue, both natives of New York state, who came west and located in Medicine township, Hennepin county. Louis R. was the second of a family of six boys and four girls. He was reared in his native county and attended school in Burns township. As a youth he chose butter making



as his trade, though he has most decided mechanical and constructional abilities, and would doubtless have made a great success as a designer and builder. As an evidence of his talent in this line there may be seen in his home a dining table with an inlaid top, a beautiful and valuable piece of furniture, all of which he has made in his spare time. In 1897 he came to St. Michael, where, with the exception of a term spent in the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota, he has since remained, winning wide favor among the patrons and among the general public. He is one of the active "boosters" in the St. Michael Commercial club, and he has done good service on the village council, a position in which he is now serving. Mr. Faue married Lillie Hoehstine, a daughter of Adam Hoehstine, of Hennepin county. The grandparents were pioneers, having come from Germany to Hennepin county in the early days. Mr. and Mrs. Faue have five children, Irene, Mildred, Wilford, Hattie and Lambert.

**Emil Gutzwiller**, a highly respected citizen now living in retirement in St. Michael's village, has undergone the experiences of pioneer life, has served in the Civil war, has developed a splendid farm, and now, in the afternoon of life, is reaping the fruits of his many years of toil and sacrifice. He is a jovial, companionable man, a general favorite, and is greatly liked and esteemed by all who know him. Emil Gutzwiller was born in Switzerland, March 1, 1841, son of Ignatius and Anna (Cumdora) Gutzwiller. In the family there were seven children, Barbara, Celia, Ignatius, Emil, Ferdinand and Cassimer, born in Switzerland, and Mary, born in Indiana. In 1845 the family came to America and located in Indiana. In 1856 they came to Wright county and took a claim of 160 acres of wild land in section 11, one half a mile north of the present village of St. Michael's. The land was covered with wild woods and no roads led to it. They built a log cabin, and started to clear the ground. Corn and potatoes were planted with a grub hoe between the stumps in the clearings. The father often walked to St. Anthony, which was then the most convenient postoffice. It was three years before they had any cattle. When they were finally enabled to obtain a yoke of oxen and a cow they felt as though they had acquired wealth. But their prosperity continued to increase, and before he died the father had built a frame house which is still standing. Ignatius Gutzwiller was one of those who helped start the early Catholic church at St. Michael's. He died at the age of seventy-five. His wife lived to be eighty-seven. Emil was reared on this pioneer farm, and learned what hunger and hard work meant. Twice he fled with the rest of the family when the news came that the savage Sioux were ravaging the neighborhood. The rumors proved false, but the panic was very real. In 1864, he enlisted in



JOSEPH ZACHMANN AND FAMILY



Co. G, Fourth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the war, when he returned to the home farm. He was married in 1873, and he and his wife remained on the farm four years more, when he purchased 160 acres in section 10. On this place in the woods he built a small one-story frame house, and, like his father before him, started to wrest the farm from its wild state. For the first two years he used oxen to assist in the clearing. With the land cleared he settled down to steady farming. Year by year the crops were good, and year by year he and his good wife were able to lay a little money aside for their old age. About 1907 they retired from active life, and moved to St. Michael's village, where they now live. For twenty years or more, Mr. Gutzwiller was a supervisor in his township. In politics he is a Democrat. He is one of the stockholders in the St. Michael's Creamery and has interests in other ventures. Emil Gutzwiller was married in 1873, to Mary Duerr, who was born in Ohio, daughter of Anthony and Otelia (Hilt) Duerr. Mr. and Mrs. Gutzwiller have two children: Mary married Joseph Andrus, and by him has four children. After his death she married Henry Schmidt and by him has one child. Isador operates the home farm. He married Lena Zachman and has four children. Anthony Duerr was born in the Province of Alsace, then a part of France, and married Otelia Hilt, a native of the same place. He brought his family to Ohio, lived there many years, and in 1861 came to Wright county and located three miles south of St. Michaels. Some land had been cleared and a log house erected. They moved into the house and started pioneer life. Anthony Duerr died at the age of sixty-six. His wife died at the age of ninety. They had eleven children, Anthony, Peter, Elizabeth, Kate, Louisa, Louis, John, Mary, and three who died as infants.

**Joseph Zachmann**, a respected farmer and extensive land-owner of section 28, Frankfort township, is a native son of this county, having first seen the light of day on the homestead where he still resides, June 8, 1862, son of John and Emily (Ayd) Zachmann. John Zachmann was a carpenter and cabinet maker by trade. He came from his birthplace in Germany to the United States, and for a time he lived in Illinois. He was there married, and there two children, Edward and John, were born. In 1855 he came to Wright county and selected 160 acres in section 28, Frankfort township. The woods covered the land, and no roads had then been broken. He erected a log cabin in which a stump was used for a table, moved his family into it, and started clearing the land. He put in his first crops with a "grub" hoe. Later he purchased some oxen and this was of much assistance to him. As years passed he prospered greatly, and by adding to his possessions from time to time finally acquired eight hundred acres of



as good land as was to be found in the county. John Zachmann was a devout Catholic, and assisted in building some of the early Catholic churches in this vicinity. He died in 1889 at the age of sixty-three. His wife, who was born May 9, 1834 died November 20, 1899. They had eleven children born in Wright county: Mary (said to be the first white child born in the township), Felix (deceased), Thomas, Kate, Joseph, Louisa (deceased), Albert, Emily and Victor (twins), Otto and Rudolph. Joseph Zachmann has always remained on the home farm. He owns 500 acres of the best land in the township, including 270 acres of the old homestead, and here he carries on general farming and stock raising. He has erected a splendid brick house and commodious barns, and everything about the place bespeaks the thrift and industry of the owner. Everything is well kept, and Mr. Zachmann may truly be considered a successful man in every way. Mr. Zachmann married Kate Ebben, a native of Wright county, daughter of Gerhard and Margaret Ebben, natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Zachmann have nine children: Gerhardt, Elizabeth, Antionette, Alfonse, Leonard, Apolonia, Annie, Alouise and Mary.

**Louis Haefer**, one of the founders of the village of Hanover, now deceased, was born in Saxony, Germany, son of William and Henrietta Haefer. The family came to the United States in 1840 and located on a farm in Sheboygan, Wis. It was on this farm that Louis was reared. After attaining the years of manhood he became manager of a general store at Houghton, Mich. From there he brought his family to what is now Hanover, in this county. The town was then all woods or stumps, and the streets were merely a series of mud holes. With great faith, however, in this village, Mr. Haefer built a large store and hotel, and opened for business. His place became known far and near, and was noted for its hospitality, good cheer, and business advantages. Mr. Haefer was the friend of all his customers, he became an important influence in the community, and his advice was eagerly sought on all important matters. While he never cared to run for public office, his fellow citizens persuaded him to serve as county commissioner and as township treasurer for several terms. He died at the age of fifty-four in 1894. Louis Haefer was married at Houghton, Wis., in 1866, to Louise Kaufman, born in Alsace, France, August 4, 1847, daughter of Nicholas and Elizabeth Kaufman. Mr. and Mrs. Haefer had seven children, Clara, Amelia (deceased), Otelia, Alice, William L., Oscar (deceased) and Louis, Jr. (deceased). Clara married J. E. Borsch, and they have three children, Adeline, Clarence and Louisa (deceased). Otelia married Fred Lindsey, and they have one son, Louis Haefer. Alice married H. A. Fetter and they have two children, Bernice Louise and Coall. William L. is a business man of Hanover.





MR. AND MRS. JAMES DIXON

**William L. Haefer**, a business man of Hanover village, was born in Houghton, Mich., December 19, 1873, son of Louis and Louise (Kaufman) Haefer. He was brought to Hanover as a small child, and when he reached a suitable age entered the district schools. Next he went to the Dr. Martin Luther College, at New Ulm, and from there he entered the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. He had been there about a year and a half when his father's death cut short his studies and he returned to look after the numerous family interests. He conducts a popular hotel, and manages a prosperous store, and also has real estate interests. Like his father before him, he is a popular man and has been a member of the village council as well as village treasurer. For the past twenty years he has been secretary of Hanover Lodge, No. 162, I. O. O. F. Mr. Haefer married Josephine Duerr, daughter of John Duerr, of St. Michael, this county. They have two children, Leona and Clara (deceased).

**James Dixon**, of honored memory, was one of the real pioneers of the county. He and his good wife moved into the county in the days of the savages and the wolves. They experienced hardship, privation and exposure, but with undaunted courage they persevered and became leading people in the community. They founded a large family and their descendants will ever hold dear their memory and honor their name. Mr. Dixon has gone to his rest, but his wife is still living, hale and hearty and in the full possession of her faculties. Her early experiences would make an interesting volume in themselves. James Dixon was born in Ireland, a son of Andrew Dixon. At the age of fourteen he started out for himself and went to England. From there he went to Scotland. When he was twenty he returned to Ireland. His twenty-first birthday saw him en route for America. After landing he went to Westchester county, New York. For some three months he was sick there, after which he remained there and worked some five years, his employers being Jonathan Hatfield and Joseph Stevens. He was married on Christmas day, 1854, to Sarah Cochran, who was born in Armagh county, Ireland, October 5, 1833, coming to the United States with her parents, Mary and Thomas Cochran, when she was thirteen or fourteen years old. In the Cochran family there were nine children, William, Solomon, Sarah, Arnold, Mary Jane, Elizabeth, Rachael, Mary Ann and John. After their marriage, Mr. and Mrs. Dixon lived a while in New York state. April 8, 1855, they landed in St. Paul, having gone from New York overland to Galena, and thence up the Mississippi river. When they reached St. Paul, Mr. Dixon had \$1 and Mrs. Dixon \$5. For a time Mr. Dixon worked in that city. Then leaving his wife there he came to Frankfort township and took a claim in section 32. He built a crude cabin with no floor but the trampled earth, and in the



fall of 1856 his wife joined him. Thus they started life in the wilderness. Their claim of 160 acres lay midway between Lake Charlotte and Lake Martha, as wild a tract as could be imagined. The timbers were full of wolves and other wild animals, and often when her husband was away, Mrs. Dixon heard them howling near the cabin. She still remembers the nights when she lay in her cabin, looking up at the stars which shone through the holes in the roof while the wild sounds of the forest came to her ears. It was four years before they succeeded in getting a cow. At one time Mrs. Dixon was so anxious to get some buttermilk that she knit a pair of stockings for Thomas Steele in return for a pail of buttermilk. The Dixons were friendly to the Indians, and the Indians treated them with respect. Often the wandering braves stopped at the cabin for food, and in appreciation thereof they sometimes left there a side of wild meat or a valuable fur skin. White travelers also received there a warm welcome, and the place became noted for its hospitality. In after years, following the custom they established in the early times, the Dixons entertained many summer guests, and their place finally developed into something of a summer resort. During the days of the ginseng diggers, Mrs. Dixon earned money digging the valuable roots. Often, with the roots selling at 5 cents a pound, Mrs. Dixon earned twenty shillings a day. But the years passed swiftly, the country was settled up, the land was prepared for crops, and the family prospered. Instead of planting corn and potatoes in the virgin sod with a "grub" hoe, they had modern implements and machinery. A comfortable house and sightly barns took the place of the original log cabin, and their holdings were increased to 360 acres. It is interesting to note that Mr. Dixon was the youngest of seven sons. He had but one sister. He was born March 22, 1830, and died January 31, 1910. He and his good wife had eleven children. Four died in infancy. Those living are John, Thomas, William, James, Andrew and Elizabeth. Robert died June 1, 1910. Mary Louise died December 31, 1910.

**Jacob Holzman**, the butter maker of the Hanover Co-Operative Creamery Association, was born in Fond du Lac, Wis., February 1, 1865, son of Peter J. and Barbara (Kramer) Holzman, who were natives of Germany and came to the United States in 1843 and located in Fond du Lac. He was the second youngest of nine sons. He was educated in the schools of Wisconsin, and was there reared. In 1884 he came to Minneapolis as assistant sealer of weights and measures in the service of the state. In 1886 he started work in the planing mills in the same city. In 1888 he entered the employ of the Northern Pacific, and was with them at Minneapolis for four years. It was in 1892 that he came to St. Michael in this county, and secured employment





CONRAD LUTZ AND FAMILY

in a cheese factory. A short time later he built a cheese factory at Albertville, also in this county, and took charge of it one year. In 1893 he came to Hanover as manager of the cheese factory. In 1895 when the cheese factory was converted into a creamery, Emil Strunk became the manager and Mr. Holzman became the butter-maker, a position he occupied for seven years. In 1903, when the creamery was purchased by the former and became the Hanover Co-Operative Creamery Association, Mr. Holzman was retained as butter-maker, a position he still holds. For fourteen years he has been assessor of Hanover village, and he has also done distinguished service as justice of the peace. In politics he is independent, voting for the man rather than for party. In fraternal association he is a Woodman. Jacob Holzman was married in 1888 to Mary Kramer, daughter of Mathias Kramer, of Fond du Lac, Wis. Mr. and Mrs. Holzman have ten children: William H., Albert J., Elnora, Fred J., Barbara, Elaine, Alfred (deceased), Ernest (deceased), Arthur (deceased) and Luella (deceased).

**Conrad Lutz**, a venerable pioneer, now deceased, was born in Germany, June 30, 1832, the second oldest of a family of three boys and one girl, Andrew, Conrad, John and Agnes. Conrad came from Germany to America, lived awhile in New Jersey, then in Chicago, and finally came up the Mississippi river to Minnesota. Conrad decided to locate in Wright county. For several years he made his home in Frankfort township on the banks of the Crow river. He there experienced all the rigors of pioneer life. The stove for his little cabin was brought on his back, piece by piece, from St. Anthony, now a part of Minneapolis. In 1863 he married, and shortly afterward he was drafted and served in the Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. After his return from the war he and his wife continued to live on the banks of the Crow river for about a year. Then they moved to 160 acres on the shore of Beebe lake in section 29, Frankfort township. This claim they purchased from the railroad company. Something like eight acres had been cleared and in this clearing stood a log house from which the roof had been removed by the wind. They repaired the log house and moved into it. With a new foundation and roof, this historic old structure is still standing. Mr. Lutz cleared the land with the aid of an ox team and made such preparation as he could for the raising of crops. Provisions were scarce and there was little money in the county. At one time, Mr. Lutz carried a large snapping turtle fifteen miles in order that the family might have a feast. Sometimes all the food they had for a family of eleven consisted of corn. This was ground into meal in their little hand spice-grinder, dried in the oven, and then baked as corn bread or boiled as mush. In later years prosperity came. They built a large modern home and



good barns, and developed a splendid farm. As the years passed they specialized more and more in dairy cattle, and their place was christened the Beebe Lake Dairy Farm, the name by which it is now widely known. Mr. Lutz did not care for political life and refused to accept township office. He was, however, much interested in school affairs and of the Lutheran church of which he was a member. He died April 7, 1903, at the age of seventy-one. His was a useful life and he was thoroughly respected throughout the community. Mrs. Lutz still lives on the old farm, although it is now owned by her son Andrew and her son-in-law, Ernest Mutterer, and conducted by them. Mr. Lutz was united in marriage, March 11, 1863, to Mary Jane Cochran, who was born in County Armagh, Ireland, March 18, 1844, and came to America when a little child. To this venerable couple seven children have been born: Mary, now Mrs. Alfred Walters, of Forseythe, Mont.; Eliza, now Mrs. William Scott, of Bradford, Pa.; Sadie, now Mrs. William T. Ziebarth, of Hermann, Minn.; Andrew, of Frankfort township, this county; Rezeline, now Mrs. Albert Droneck, of Foley, Minn.; Emma, now Mrs. George Boldue, of Foley, Minn.; Edith, now Mrs. Ernest Mutterer, of Frankfort township, this county.

**Anthony Haffner**, proprietor of the popular Haffner Summer Resort, on the banks of beautiful Lake Charlotte, Frankfort township, was born in the Rhine region, Germany, July 6, 1858, the son of Anthony Haffner, Sr., and his wife, Gertrude Haffner. The children in the family were Gertrude, Mathias, Kate, Anthony, Peter and Joseph. The mother died in 1864 and that same year the father and the children came to America and located in Hennepin county. Some fifteen years later the father came to St. Michaels in this county, and operated a sawmill and a threshing machine. Anthony Haffner, the subject of this sketch, attended the schools of Hennepin county, and at the age of twenty-three struck out for himself. After working in the vicinity of St. Michaels for a few years, he purchased forty acres of land in section 31, Rockford township, in 1889. To this he has since added thirty-three acres, so that he now has a good place of nearly seventy-five acres, with a splendid water line on the lake. When he arrived the place was covered with trees. He cleared off the land and with a grub hoe put in his first crops. His first home was a board shanty covered with tar-paper. For two years he had no horses or oxen, but did what he could with one cow. About eleven years after he settled on the place he erected a large barn and a substantial residence. He raised general crops and good stock, and became a successful farmer. From time to time his friends came to his place to fish in the lake. Gradually he received requests from strangers for board. Finally, in 1907, he decided to go into the summer resort business. When his



ANTHONY HAFNER AND FAMILY



farm house became too small for his business he erected a cottage nearby. But the house and the cottage were several rods back from the lake. So, selecting a slope of land on the north bank of the lake, shaded with some sightly trees, and possessing all the necessary qualifications for a summer camp, he moved the cottage to the new location, and started on a larger scale. The main hotel houses the dining room, which is cool and airy, and well furnished. The food is of the best and served in the best manner. Ten cottages give ample accommodations to a large number of guests, while the garage, the ice house, the dancing pavilion, the well of pure water and the large fleet of boats add to their comfort and pleasure. The lake itself is clear and sparkling, one mile and a half long and a half a mile wide, 100 feet deep in the deepest place. The bathing beach in front of the cottages is excellent, and the maple groves here and there make ideal spots for picnics. Year by year the place is increasing in popularity as a fishing, hunting and recreation resort, and the enterprise is assuming large proportions. Mr. Haffner still successfully carries on his general farming. Anthony Haffner was married April 4, 1884, to Kate Dronech, a native of Hennepin county. Their children are: Gertrude, Anna, Clara, Theadore, Lena, Edith, Alvina and Albert, all living.

**Mathias J. Barthel**, a scientific farmer of section 22, Frankfort township, was born on the adjoining old homestead of his grandfather in section 28, son of Mathias and Barbara (Burges) Barthel, and grandson of Nicholas and Mary (Lambert) Burges. He was reared on the old homestead, attended the public schools, and learned farming from his father. In 1900 he bought his present place of seventy-seven acres. He cleared nearly half the land for the plow, and made some splendid improvements, including a sightly house, roomy barns and suitable sheds. While he is interested in all branches of farming, his particular pride has been in the raising of Poland-China swine. He is well known at St. Michaels, where he is a stockholder in the creamery and a director in the shipping association. Mr. Barthel married Margaret Walesch, a native of Wright county, and they have six children: Edwin, Cragor, Cora, Lambert, Monica and Roman.

**Peter Duerr**, a pioneer, now living in Frankfort township, was born in Germany, August 3, 1843, son of Antoine and Otelia Duerr. In the family there were five children: Anthony, Eliza, Kate, Peter and Louisa. Antoine Duerr brought his family to America in 1847 and located in Ohio. In 1862 they came to Wright county, where he died at the age of sixty-three. His wife lived to the good old age of ninety. After Peter Duerr grew to manhood he bought 114 acres in Frankfort township, near the present village of St. Michaels. Only two acres had been broken. He erected a shanty and with an ox team began to



clear the land. Year by year he made improvements until he now has as good a farm as is to be found in the neighborhood. A handsome brick residence took the place of the log house, and commodious barns replaced the pole shed which first sheltered his oxen. Mr. Duerr has now retired from active life, and has turned the farm over to his sons, Leo and Lawrence. Peter Duerr was married to Mary Fry, daughter of Frank and Kate (Zachman) Fry, pioneers of Frankfort township. Mr. and Mrs. Duerr have had thirteen children, as follows: Joseph, Lena, John, Katie, Rosa, Ambrose, Frances, Thomas, Anton, Lawrence, Leo, Regina and Philomena. Leo Duerr was born August 5, 1890. His brother Lawrence was born August 26, 1888. The two young men are active and wideawake citizens in every respect. Aside from operating the home farm of 114 acres they have purchased 60 acres adjoining, and are successfully carrying on general farming and dairying.

**Oscar Brenk**, a prosperous farmer of section 22, Frankfort township, was born March 30, 1865, in Pforzheim, Germany, son of Frank and Lena (Voegele) Brenk, who spent the span of their years in Germany. The children in the family were: Oscar, Edward, Clara, Francisco, Anna and Ellis. Of these, Oscar was the only one to come to America. He was reared in Germany and learned the miller's trade in his father's mills. In 1890 he came to the United States. He secured employment with Thomas Zachman in Frankfort township. Thomas Zachman was the true type of a pioneer. He had come to America from Germany, took a quarter section of land in section 22, Frankfort township, erected a log cabin, and cleared most of the land. He and his good wife, Teckler Aydt, toiled early and late and became substantial people in the community. In 1886 they erected what was then one of the best barns in the neighborhood. Into this home came Oscar Brenk, the subject of this sketch. This young stranger and Mary Zachman, the daughter of the family, became attached to each other, and in 1894 they were married. They have continued to reside on the Zachman farm. Mr. Brenk is a competent farmer, raises some excellent crops and makes a specialty of Red Poll cattle, Yorkshire swine and Percheron grade horses. He has erected a thoroughly modern house of nine rooms, with running water, heating plant and other conveniences. He has held school office and has served in the development of the community in various ways. Mr. and Mrs. Brenk have six children: Frank, Laurentia, Ella, Carola, Irene and Arabella. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic Church of St. Michaels.

**Joseph Reems**, a pioneer of Frankfort township, was born in Fayette, in what is now West Virginia, September 30, 1849, son of Samuel and Nancy (Dorey) Reems, and descended from

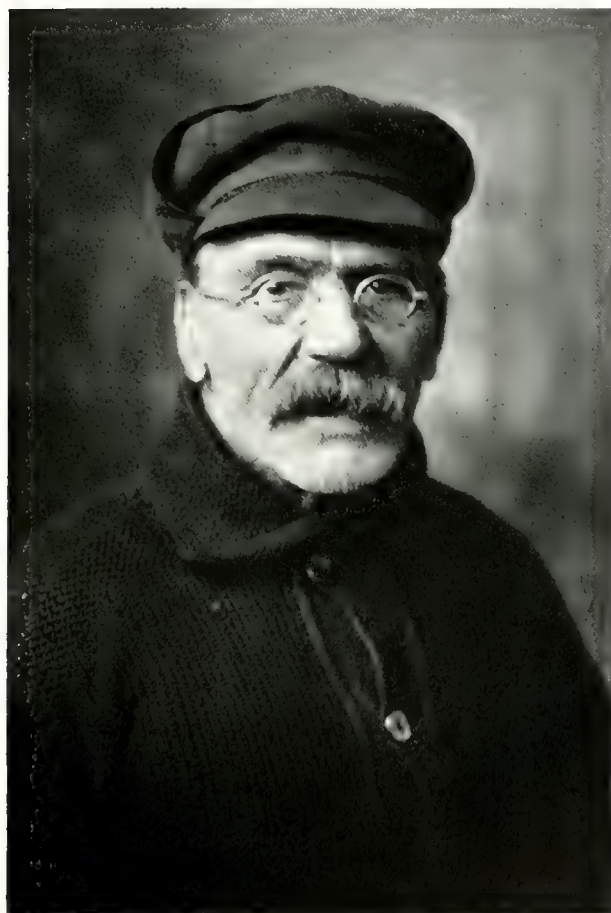
notable Colonial families on both sides of his house. He was brought here by his parents in 1854, lost his mother on the trip, and was reared by his father and sisters. He attended a log school house and rendered the family such assistance as he could about the little clearing and in the home cabin. When the Civil War broke out he was so young that he was not allowed to enlist, but he served his country by acting as a government driver along difficult and dangerous routes. After the war he returned and again took up farming. He has a good tract of land in section 1, and though he has suffered severe losses by fire he now has a comfortable home and a thoroughly modern barn, with fences, implements and machinery in keeping. Aside from his land here he owns land in Dunn county, North Dakota. All his farm land is rented and he is now practically retired. Few men have been more active than he in public affairs. He has been town supervisor for many terms; county commissioner, eight years; assessor, fourteen years, and school director twelve years. Wherever he has found the opportunity for service he has not shirked but has ever been willing to assist in every good cause. He is a member of the Masonic body and his wife and two daughters are affiliated with the Eastern Star. Mr. Reems married Mary A. Richner, daughter of Frederick Richner, of Switzerland, who located in Otsego township, this county, in 1873. Mrs. Reems died in 1908 at the age of fifty-four, leaving eight children: Alfred J., Samuel, Emma, Elmilda, Etta May, Millie J., Le Roy M. and William.

**Samuel Reems**, a pioneer of Frankfort township, was born in Pennsylvania, son of George Reems. George Reems came of an early colonial family. He served in the Revolutionary War under George Washington and Anthony Wayne, often trudging barefooted and starving through the snow in order that liberty might reign throughout the colonies. He lived in the thirteenth house erected in the city of Philadelphia. From George Reems and his two brothers, Uriah and Benjamin, are supposed to have descended all the Reems families now found in the United States. Samuel Reems came from what is now West Virginia in 1854, and took a claim of 160 acres in Frankfort township, on the banks of the Crow river, several miles from where it empties into the Mississippi river. At that time the Indians ranged the country, and the first spring he was here they made sugar from the sap of the maples on his place. He erected a log cabin, brought supplies from St. Paul on his back, put in his first corn and potatoes in the virgin sod with an ax, and gradually cleared the land. He died in 1892 at the age of 103 years, seven months and three days. The mother had died at Montrose, this county, in 1854, when the family was on its way here to settle. Samuel Reems was married in West Virginia to Nancy Dorey, a native

of Connecticut, and nine children were born: Samuel, Virginia, Catherine, George, James, William, Stephen, Sarah Ann and Joseph. Three of these sons were veterans of the Civil War. Joseph and Sarah Ann were twins.

**Peter Schroder**, of Marysville township, inventor, blacksmith, farmer, was born in the southern part of Sweden, December 2, 1844, son of Ole and Ingeborg Schroder. In the family there was one other son, Olaf, who died in the old country. As a youth Peter learned the blacksmith trade, following that line of industry in the winter and the lumber business in the summer. In 1873 he married Anna Nord, born in the northern part of Sweden, February 2, 1844, and four children were born: Anna, Elizabeth and Olaf (living) and Peter (deceased). May 22, 1888, they arrived in Buffalo, in this county. A few days later they located on section 1, Marysville township. There Mr. Schroder erected a blacksmith shop, and carried on this business in connection with farming. As the result of many years of observation and experience he has perfected a little carrier for use in barns, and for several years past this device has enjoyed a wide sale. Mr. Schroder is an estimable citizen, well liked by all who know him. His success has been well deserved. The three children are all substantial residents of the communities in which they live. Anna married Oscar Anderson. They live in Marysville township and have three children: Alfred, Carl and Ellen. Elizabeth is the wife of Peter Peterson. They live in Buffalo township and have three children: Ruby, Benner and Bertell. Olaf married Louisa Hanson and they have two children, William and Gladys. They live on the home place with the subject of this sketch.

**Charles Jewett**, now deceased, led a useful life, and his good deeds will long be remembered. He was born in Northfield, Vt., November 2, 1838, son of Aquila and Fanine (Houghton) Jewett, natives of Vermont, but of English descent. The founder of the Houghton family in America came over in the Mayflower. Aquila Jewett brought his family to Minnesota, in 1861, and in 1863 came to Wright county, and located in Marysville township. He and his two sons, Charles and Aaron, each secured eighty acres of wild land in section 8. In this enterprise Charles Jewett took the lead. He arrived on his claim with a yoke of oxen and a wagon, July 4, 1863, and started at once to erect two neighboring log cabins, one being on his father's claim and one on his own. He cleared up his eighty acres and added land from time to time until he owned 240 acres, including sixty acres of maple grove, which is regarded as the finest in the county. With each year that passed his prosperity increased, and he became a substantial and well-to-do citizen. He did not care to mingle in politics, and often refused to run for office, his



PETER SCHRODER









CHARLES JEWETT AND FAMILY

greatest delight being in his home life and in his farm. He died August 24, 1912, greatly beloved by all who knew him. Since his death his widow has looked after the interests of the farm. Mr. Jewett was married July 4, 1878, to Sarah Adelaide Washburn, daughter of William W. Washburn. Their children are: Charles S., born May 28, 1879; William E., July 5, 1880; Forrest A., September 17, 1881; Henry A., born December 25, 1883; Emerist E., November 9, 1885; Bertha D., February 7, 1888; Daisy D., March 22, 1890; Joseph C., July 26, 1897; Fannie E., August 5, 1899; Russell E., April 19, 1903.

**William W. Washburn**, a veteran of the Civil War, and an early settler of Wright county, was born in Plainville, N. Y., February 7, 1841, and was there reared. In 1860 he came to Wright county and located in Buffalo. November 4, 1861, he enlisted in Company C, Brackett's Battalion, and participated in the Battles of Fort Henry, Fort Donaldson and Corinth. He was transferred to the Fifth Ohio Cavalry, and was wounded in the second battle of Ft. Donaldson. After his discharge he re-enlisted and came north. He accompanied the Sully expedition to the Northwest, and was actively engaged against the Indians in the Black Hills. After four and a half years of active service he was mustered out at Ft. Snelling May 26, 1866. In the meantime he had lost his claim in Rockford township, but in 1863, while home for a time, he secured a claim in Chatham township, where he returned after the war, and where he built up a splendid farm. Mr. Washburn has served as justice of the peace and as chairman of the town board. He was married December 23, 1859, to Emogene Matteson, who was born in New York state, March 18, 1844, and died June 17, 1909. Their children were: Sarah A., born May 2, 1861; William S., February 20, 1867; Myron A., February 11, 1869; Wallace E., November 3, 1873; Lorena, May 19, 1877; Emogene, April 8, 1879; Minnie A., February 6, 1881; Roscoe C., December 30, 1882; Norah E., August 30, 1885; Walter W., May 30, 1891. Roscoe died February 11, 1883; Walter W. died September 8, 1891, and John died October 27, 1898.

**Levi Eckelberry**, for many years a prominent and respected farmer of Marysville township, now deceased, was born in Wetzel county, in what is now West Virginia, March 5, 1842, son of George B. and Sarah (Wise) Eckelberry, who spent the span of their years in what is now West Virginia. The children in the family were: Richard, who served five years in the Civil War; Valentine, who died under arms in the Civil War; Levi, who served a short time in the Civil War; Abraham, Margaret, Elizabeth and Delilah. Levi was the third in the family. He was reared on the home farm. March 13, 1865, he enrolled as a private under Capt. John C. Felton, in Company F, Seventh West Vir-



ginia Veterans, for one year or during the war. He was discharged from service July 1, 1865, at Munson's Hill, Virginia. In 1868 he came to Minnesota and bought school land in section 36, Marysville township. This tract covered eighty acres and was all wild woods. Mr. Eckelberry erected a cabin of unhewed logs and kept house for himself until 1872, when he went South and was married. Together the two started life in the wilderness. Mr. Eckelberry cleared the land and in time had a good acreage of tilled land. In time he was enabled to purchase a pair of oxen, and this helped him greatly with his farming. In time he added ninety acres more. This also was wild and had to be cleared. A slightly residence took the place of the log cabin and commodious barns were also reared. Fences were built, tools and implements purchased and many improvements made. Mr. Eckelberry served for many years as a member of the school board. Although a man of austere life, he did not belong to any church, though his sympathies were with the Christian church. He died September 28, 1890. Mr. Eckelberry was married March 4, 1872, to Sarah J. Wyatt, and they had eight children: Melissa A., born February 26, 1873; William N., September 10, 1874, Thornton R., December 20, 1878; Rachael M., October 7, 1880; Lucinda E., September 29, 1882; Goldie J., September 16, 1884; Addie F., September 24, 1886, and Levi C., July 20, 1888. Of these Addie F. died December 1, 1887, and Thornton R. died May 19, 1899. Sarah J. Wyatt was born in what is now Wetzel county, West Virginia, December 14, 1849, daughter of Augustus and Lucinda (Hostuttler) Wyatt, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Hostuttler and of Mr. and Mrs. Zachariah Wyatt. Augustus Wyatt was the son of Zachariah and Rachael (Willey) Wyatt, who spent the span of their years in what is now West Virginia. Augustus Wyatt was of Irish descent. He was married in Virginia to Lucinda Hostuttler, a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of Samuel Hostuttler, a veteran of the Civil War. They have eleven children: Sarah J., William Jackson, Rachael Ann, Waitman P., Jasper N., Adaline, Phoebe K., Louisa B., Melissa H., Alpheus and Plesa Virginia.

**Willis S. Pettis**, an influential farmer of Marysville township, was born not far from Kasota, in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, May 18, 1879, son of Stephen W. and Fannie (French) Pettis. He attended school in the historic old stone schoolhouse at Kasota, and completed his early education in the Kasota High School, where he received a second-grade teacher's certificate. At the age of twenty he came to Wright county, and spent the autumn. In the spring he returned to Le Sueur county, but a few months later he came again to Wright county, and located on eighty acres in section 3, Marysville township. An old log building stood on the place, and a small amount of clearing had been done.

Mr. Pettis set about developing the place, and there carried on general farming until 1908, when he sold out and purchased an adjoining farm of 106 acres. He does general farming, but makes a specialty of raising good blooded Shorthorn cattle and Poland China swine. He has been unfortunate in losing many cattle by disease and accident, but is slowly forging ahead, and, undaunted by disaster, is making himself one of the successful men of the county. On his farm he has made many improvements, including a fine flowing well, 200 feet deep. Mr. Pettis is a member of the Odd Fellows and of the Encampment. In 1898 he enlisted in service for the Spanish-American war, but was rejected on account of the loss of an eye. In civil life he has served as chairman of his school board. Mr. Pettis was married at the age of twenty-two to Viola Hayes, daughter of A. J. Hayes. She died at the age of twenty-two, leaving two children: Edna, born April 10, 1902, and Esther, born September 15, 1904. Another child, Margaret, died as an infant. At the age of twenty-seven, Mr. Pettis married Viola Preble, daughter of Andrew and Emma Preble, and widow of Benjamin Oliva, by whom she had two children, Mabel, born August 18, 1901, and Sylvester, born April 8, 1903. To Mr. Pettis she has borne three children: Francis, born December 20, 1908; Lillian, born March 27, 1912; and Frankie, who died at the age of two months and three days.

**Jay W. Pettis**, a leading farmer of Marysville township, was born in Le Sueur county, Minnesota, May 31, 1870, son of Stephen W. and Fannie (French) Pettis. He was educated in the public schools of his native county and was reared to farm pursuits. As a young man he engaged for a while in railroad work. In December, 1890, he became a government teamster at Ft. Beauford, North Dakota, and served for about a year. In 1891 he came to Wright county and located on a farm of eighty acres in section 26. No buildings had been erected on the place, and only sixteen acres had been cleared. Mr. Pettis erected suitable buildings, cleared the remainder of the land, developed the place in many ways, and successfully conducted general farming. In 1911 he sold out, and located on the Robasse homestead of eighty acres in section 10, where he now resides. Mr. Pettis is a member of Buffalo Lodge, No. 144, I. O. O. F. He married Mary Hayes, daughter of Ellis Hayes, and they have six children: Gladys, Glen, Fairy, Floella, Ardis and Floyd.

**Stephen Pettis**, the pioneer, was born in Ohio, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pettis, both of whom are believed to have also been natives of Ohio. After Stephen was born the family moved to Illinois, and there were born eight children: John, Charles, Henry, Catherine, Olive, Melissa, Emily and Eliza. In 1853 the family came from Illinois to Le Sueur county, Minnesota, and

secured a homestead on the shores of Lake Emily. On this farm, Charles Pettis opened a store, bringing his goods with oxen from St. Paul. On this farm he continued to live until his death at the age of forty-eight. Stephen W. was nineteen years of age when the family came to Le Sueur county. He took a homestead a mile southeast of Kasota, a tract of timbered land lying on the edge of the prairie. With an ox team he cleared up the land, living in the meantime in a cabin which he had erected at the side near the prairie. He married Fannie French, a native of New York state. She died in September, 1888, at the age of fifty-one. Their children were: Elmira (deceased), Harlow, Maritta, Helena, Carrie, Judd and Jay W. (twins), and Wells S. For his second wife, Mr. Pettis married Harriett Handley, of Indiana. There were born to them two children, Dora and Cecil. Stephen Pettis continued to live on his claim, gradually developing and improving it, until his death in April, 1910. He was born August 26, 1833.

**George Lammers**, a prominent farmer of Marysville township, was born on his father's homestead in section 19, this township, February 22, 1870, son of Henry and Anna (Dimer) Lammers. He was reared on the home farm, received his early education in the district schools, and later attended St. John's University, at Collegeville, this state. For some three years he and his father operated the home place in partnership. Then he conducted the place alone for some five years. At the end of this period he bought eighty acres of the homestead. He erected a modern home and suitable barns, and has brought the farm to a high stage of cultivation. He carries on general farming and breeds thoroughbred Poland China swine and good grade cattle. He was a director in the Waverly Co-Operative Creamery when it first started, and after an interval when he did not serve he was again elected in 1912. Fraternally he associates with the Modern Brotherhood of America of Waverly. Mr. Lammers was married March 2, 1892, to Elizabeth Borngesser, born in Rockford township, August 30, 1870, daughter of Andrew and Anna (Ruppelius) Borngesser. They have had six children: Anna Christina, born March 16, 1893; George E. H., born December 1, 1897; Roy Patrick, born March 17, 1900; Elmer Louis, born December 30, 1904; Walter, who died at the age of one year and eight months; and Raymond, who died at the age of eight weeks.

**Henry Lammers**, an early settler, was born in Westphalia, Prussia, January 4, 1827, son of Henry Lammers, Sr. For many generations the first-born son of the family has been named Henry. Henry Lammers, Sr., was a builder and contractor. He brought his wife and several of the children to America, and settled in Mankato. Some of the older sons were already in this country. Henry Lammers, the subject of this sketch, came to



America in 1852. He remained in Chicago a year, following his trade as a carpenter. Two years later he went to Walworth county, Wisconsin, and followed the same trade. In August, 1854, he came to Minnesota and located in St. Paul. In 1859 he came to Wright county and took a claim in section 6, Franklin township. He sold this claim in 1861, and went to Waverly, where he opened the second store in the village. In 1864 he disposed of his establishment and enlisted in Co. A, First Minnesota Heavy Artillery, serving until the close of the war. Upon returning from the army, he purchased a farm in section 19, Marysville, which he improved until at one time it was considered one of the best farms in the township. Mr. Lammers took an active part in public affairs. He served a term as county commissioner of Wright county, and was on the school board of his district some three decades. He was an active member of the G. A. R. A devout Catholic, he was one of the principal factors in the building of the church and school of that denomination in Waverly. His death, September 14, 1911, was sincerely mourned. Mr. Lammers was married in Chicago, May 17, 1854, to Anna Gardner, who died in November, 1865, leaving four children, two of whom—Henry L. and Dora L.—lived to adult years. In December, 1865, he married Mrs. Anna (Dimer) Klein and to this union were born four children, of whom two, Matilda and George, lived to adult years. Anna Dimer was born in December, 1830, and came to this country with two girl companions. She married John Klein, and by him had two children, John and Michael. After his death she married Henry Lammers. She died in June, 1902.

**Moses Perra**, for many years a highly respected resident of Marysville township, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, April 28, 1804, son of Coussent S. and Margaret Perra, both natives of Canada. In the family there were three boys and three girls: Thomas, Moses, Edmund, Margaret, Lena and Eliza. Moses Perra was reared on a Canadian farm, and was there married to Harriet St. Mary, born in the Province of Quebec, in August, 1809, daughter of Peter and Susan St. Mary, of Canada. The Perra and St. Mary families were of French origin. The founders of the American families settled in Maine, but during the French and Indian wars were driven out of that region, and took up their residence in Canada, where many of the family may still be found. The children born to Moses and Harriet Perra were Moses, Jr., Luger, Tonored, Medrick, Adrian, Benefield, Sophrina, Elmira, Alfonsene, Silevear and Oclavia. The family came to the United States in 1877. After remaining there two years they came to Wright county and located on eighty acres in section 8, Marysville township, where he remained until his death in 1901. His wife died in 1895.



**Adrian Perra**, a leading farmer of Marysville township, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, October 31, 1857, son of Moses and Harriet (St. Mary) Perra. He came to Wright county with his parents about 1879, and soon thereafter struck out for himself. A short time afterward he married Rose Gerrard, who was born in New York state, and came to Wright county with her parents, Louis and Rose Gerrard, locating permanently in Marysville township. Mrs. Rose Perra died at the age of twenty-eight, leaving five children: Octavia, Adolph, Ellen, Henry and Amelia (deceased). Soon after his marriage Mr. Perra purchased forty acres in section 4 from Louis Gerrard, and here he has since resided, having in the interim made many improvements and added twenty more acres. For his second wife Mr. Perra married Lillie Clairmont, who upon her death left three children: Adaline, Albert and Harriet. On June 17, 1902, Mr. Perra married Martha Lebo, born at Genoa, Wallace county, Illinois, daughter of Joseph and Catherine (LaPlante) Lebo, and widow of Moses Payne. Joseph Lebo was born in Quebec. His wife was born in New York. In 1882 they came to Minnesota, and located in Maple Lake township, in this county. William Payne was born in Quebec and became a farmer in Maple Lake township, this county. He died in 1901 at the age of fifty-eight, leaving besides his wife one daughter, Eleanor. Adrian Perra has taken a prominent part in public affairs. For eight years he has been a director in the Montrose Farmers' Co-Operative Creamery, and he is also a stockholder in the Farmers' Elevator at that place. He has been school clerk for twelve years, and twice he has been called upon to serve as supervisor. He attends the Catholic church and belongs to the Modern Woodmen.

**Peter S. Svenson**, better known as Peter Errickson, is an influential farmer residing on forty acres of good land in section 12, Marysville township. He was born July 27, 1844, in Sweden, son of Swan Errickson and Anna (Peterson) Errickson, and grandson of Errick Bengtson and Stina (Kajsa Bunstrum) Bengtson, and of Peter and Anna Anderson. In 1861, Swan Errickson, with his wife and three of his children, Swan, Nels and Mary, came to America. Peter S. and Kajsa were left in the old country. The family came to Iowa, and the father secured work for the summer. Here a child, Amuel, was born, August 1, 1861. They continued to engage in farming for two years in Iowa. In 1863 they came to Wright county, and here another daughter, Augusta, was born March 11, 1864. Upon their arrival they located on eighty acres of wood land in section 12. They erected a log cabin, which is still standing, and started farming in the wilderness. His first crops were planted with a hoe. His first harvest of wheat he sold at \$2 a bushel for



PETER HENSON AND FAMILY



seed. Assisted by his sons and a yoke of oxen, he cleared the land and in time became a prosperous man. Often when supplies were low he walked to St. Paul, bringing home salt and flour on his back. Swan Errickson died July 7, 1909, at the age of eighty-nine. His wife died in 1901 at the age of seventy-eight. They were of the Lutheran faith, and assisted in building two churches of that denomination in this locality. Peter S. Svenson came to the United States in 1866, and joined the rest of the family in Wright county, and filed on a tract of eighty acres in section 12. He here built a log cabin, and here, in 1872, he brought his bride. The first year he put in the potatoes among the stumps with a grub hoe. At times he had no salt to eat on the fish he caught in the creek, and which were his only food for days at a time. In order to obtain oxen he purchased two calves and waited until they grew. He worked hard, night and day, and in time reaped the reward of his labor. He is prosperous and respected, and his opinion on all rural subjects is highly valued. He has helped to build three churches, is a Sunday school teacher, and has been church sexton for six years. Peter S. Svenson was married, November 13, 1870, to Mary Utterberg, and they have had eleven children: Anna was born April 28, 1871; Charlotte was born February 13, 1873; E. Albert was born August 18, 1874, and died April 4, 1895; Ida E. was born November 1, 1875, and died August 23, 1876; Caroline was born December 15, 1876; Albertina was born November 3, 1878, and died March 21, 1887; Axel was born March 22, 1880; Gottfried was born October 6, 1881; Beda was born May 11, 1883; and Tillie and Elden (twins) were born May 30, 1885. Mary Utterberg was the daughter of Johan and Mary Peterson, Utterberg being the name officially conferred upon Johan when he joined the Swedish army. In 1867 they came to America, bringing their seven children: Kajsa, Ole, Mary, Carrie, John, Nels and Charles. They first located on fifteen acres in Rockford township, this county. They built a log house that is still standing, erected other buildings, and in time added 160 acres. Johan was the sexton of the Lutheran church for a number of years. He died in 1900 at the age of eighty. His wife died in June at the age of seventy-eight.

**Beat Robasse**, the pioneer, was born in Switzerland, and there grew to manhood. In the early fifties he left his native land, with his wife, Mary Bershal, and their two children, Edward and Rosina, and came to America. In Lewis county, New York, he found a farm, and there resided for thirteen years. Of the children born on this farm, three, Rosalie, Alfred and Mary, grew to adult years. In the fall of 1865 the family came to Minnesota and located on forty acres of railroad land in section 3, Marysville. They had brought one horse from New York. After reaching here they secured a yoke of oxen. They erected a log cabin



and started clearing the land. The railroad not having then been built, the settlers found great difficulty in securing provisions. Consequently Mr. Robasse opened a small store on the shores of Birch lake. After living some three years on his original place, he sold out, and took a homestead of eighty acres in section 10, in the same township. This tract was entirely wild, and only a trail led to it. Mr. Robasse cleared the land, erected a hewed log house, and developed a good farm. As time passed, frame buildings replaced the original log house. The frame barn which was built was the first erected in this locality. Some years later Mr. Robasse purchased eighty acres across the street. This tract is still in the family. One of his benefactions was the presentation of an acre of land for the old Marysville Catholic Church, now out of existence. After a busy life, Beat Robasse died in 1902 at the age of eighty-seven. His wife died in 1900 at the age of seventy-six. In addition to the children whom they brought with them from New York state, two more, Lena and Charles, were born in this county.

**Alfred Robasse**, a substantial farmer of Marysville township, was born in Lewis county, New York, August 15, 1856, son of Beat and Mary (Bershal) Robasse, the pioneers. He was nine years old when his parents brought him to Marysville township, and here he was reared. He attended the neighborhood schools, and learned farming from his father. As a young man he started farming on his present place of eighty acres in section 9, across the street from the old homestead. The tract was covered with woods, and he set at work to develop and clear it. He erected a modern house and barn, put up fences, and made many other improvements. He carries on general farming and raises good Shorthorn cattle. A friend of the co-operative movement, he is a director in the Waverly Co-operative Creamery and a stockholder in the Waverly Co-operative Store. He has been supervisor of the township for sixteen years, and a member of the school board of his district for about the same time. Mr. Robasse was married in 1886, to Emma Stuhr, born in Germany, November 2, 1867, daughter of Herman Stuhr. Mr. and Mrs. Robasse had two children: Minnie, born June 30, 1893, and Louis, born April 31, 1899.

**Gottlieb Epple**, a pioneer, was born in Wurttemberg, Germany, the son of John Epple. The other children in the family were Mary, Richa, John, David, Gottlieb, Christena, Sophia, Jacob and Lena. About 1851 Mary and John came to the United States and located in Philadelphia, Pa. In 1852 they were followed by the father and mother, and the remainder of the family, with the exception of Richa, who remained in Germany. From Philadelphia the members of the family scattered to various parts of the country. Gottlieb came west in 1858 and took a homestead





JOHN EPPLE AND FAMILY

in section 32, Franklin township. This tract contained 160 acres, covered with dense woods. He put up a log shack, with no floor but the trodden earth, and started farming. His first crops were put in with a grub hoe. When he was out of provisions he walked to St. Paul, bringing the supplies home on his back. Sometimes he camped with the Indians. He understood their natures and was their friend. Often he was able to trade powder and shot with them for much-needed fresh meat. In 1861 he went to Dayton, Ohio, and was married. After the Indian troubles he brought his wife and his three children, Christ, Anna and Sophia, back to his claim in Wright county. He purchased a yoke of oxen, erected a second log house, and began to prosper. Later he erected a frame house and suitable barns. He died in December, 1911, at the age of eighty-three. His wife died in 1877 at the age of thirty-eight. Mr. Epple was an earnest worker in the Methodist Episcopal church. He was steward or trustee for twenty-five years, and helped build the old log structure of the Seibel church, now known as the Cassel church. Mr. Epple was married at Dayton, Ohio, in 1861, to Barbara Weiman, born in 1836, daughter of Christ Weiman. The other children in the family were: Christ, Michael and Jacob. Mr. and Mrs. Epple had eight children: Christ, Anna, Sophia, David, William, John, Minnie and Louis.

**John Epple**, a wide-awake farmer of Marysville township, was born on his father's homestead in Franklin township, July 24, 1872, son of Gottlieb and Barbara (Weiman) Epple. He was educated in the district schools of his neighborhood, and grew to manhood on his father's farm. For a time he and his brother operated the home place in partnership. It is now owned by William alone. In 1902 John Epple purchased sixty-five acres in section 36, Marysville township, where he now lives. At that time a small house stood on the land. Mr. Epple has added forty-four acres, and has built a modern house and barns. He raises good stock, and is one of the leading dairymen of the county. He has been an active member of the board of directors of the Montrose Co-operative Creamery. The village of Montrose has found him a valued councilman. In the Methodist church he is especially active, having been a steward and the Sunday school superintendent for many years. Mr. Epple was married, April 23, 1892, to Carrie Cook, born on the homestead of her father in Franklin township, daughter of Joseph and Minnie (Herman) Cook. Mr. and Mrs. Epple have three children: Esther, born May 29, 1903; Viola, born April 4, 1907; Lydia, born August 25, 1910. Joseph Cook lives in Franklin township, to which locality he was brought by his parents. Minnie Herman, his wife, was brought here by her parents a short time before the Indian outbreak.



**Olof Peterson**, a substantial farmer of Marysville township, was born in Sweden, May 31, 1856, son of Peter and Carrie (Anderson) Peterson. The mother died in January, 1865, at the age of forty-nine. Later the father married Anna Kelstrom. In 1870 they came to America, leaving the children in Sweden. They secured forty acres of land in Marysville township, erected a log cabin, cleared the land with the assistance of an ox team, and established for themselves a home in the wilderness. Peter Peterson was a devout member of the Swedish Lutheran church and served as secretary of the local congregation of that faith. He died December 15, 1897, at the age of seventy-five. His wife is still living at the good old age of eighty-three. Olof Peterson learned his trade as a painter in Sweden. In 1881 he married Hadda Borgstrum, and with her set out for the United States. For a time they lived in Waverly, in Wright county, but then moved to Minneapolis, where he followed his trade as a painter for several years. About 1887 he secured forty acres of wild brush land in section 7, Marysville township. He built a log house and started in a small way, gradually clearing the land and bringing it under cultivation. He now owns 110 acres, with good buildings and suitable equipment. He carries on general farming, and raises a good grade of stock. Mr. and Mrs. Peterson have four children: Hjelmer, Arthur, Emma and Arvid. Hjelmer is a farmer in Atwater, Minn. He married Martha Berg. Their children are Algot, Verna and Adolph. Arthur and Arvid conduct the home farm and are both enterprising young men. Arthur has served two years as assessor of Marysville township and is now school clerk of District No. 103. Emma is now Mrs. John A. Dokken. Her husband is a merchant of McLeod county, Minnesota. The family faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church.

**Nels A. Erickson**, an active farmer of Marysville township, was born in Sweden, April 22, 1854, son of Swan and Anna (Peterson) Erickson. In 1861, two of the children having died, the parents and the remaining four children, Charles, Mary, Christine and Nels S., started for America, aboard a sailing vessel. The boat sprung a leak, and only by the most heroic measures was it kept from sinking. After landing, the family came to Waukon, Wis., and remained there until fall, when they set out for Waconia, this state, and located on the banks of Clearwater lake, where they rented a farm for many years. There a child, Manuel, was born. From this farm, the family came to Wright county in 1867, and secured a homestead of eighty acres in Marysville township. The tract was covered with wild woods, and no roads led to it. They erected a log cabin, and with the help of a yoke of oxen started to clear the land. The family was fortunate in owning two cows. As the years passed, the family prospered and the place became

highly improved. Swan Erickson was prominent in the Swedish Lutheran denomination, and helped to build the first church of that faith in this vicinity. He died in 1909, at the age of eighty-nine. His wife died in 1897 at the age of seventy-eight. In addition to the children already named, one, Augusta, was born in Wright county. Nels A. Erickson followed the varying fortunes of his family. He assisted his parents in developing the home farm, and as he grew up, secured a tract of forty acres on Tamarack lake, Rockford township. On this tract was a small log house, and two or three acres had been cleared. He cleared up the land, erected a splendid frame dwelling house and good barns, and remained there until 1910, when he came to Marysville township, and secured a tract of thirty-one and a half acres on the southwest shore of Mink lake. On this place, only a few acres had been cleared, and the present buildings and improvements are all his own work. Mr. Erickson was married in 1895 to Clara Anderson, and they have three children, Violet and Irene, born in Rockford township, and Carl, born in Marysville township. Clara Anderson is the daughter of Cornelius and Mary Anderson, who came from Sweden on the same boat with Nels A. Erickson. They settled in Marysville township, this county, where the daughter, Clara, was born. The family numbered thirteen children. When they came to America, the first wife of Cornelius Erickson was living, but Mary Anderson, who became his second wife, was on the same boat, being then unmarried.

**Nels Carlson**, a prominent citizen of sections 1 and 12, Marysville township, was born in Sweden, February 24, 1858, son of John and Helen (Johnson) Carlson. In 1866, the family, then consisting of the father and mother and four children, Peter, John, Anna and Nels, came to America, landed at New York, came west in a box car, and finally reached the end of the railroad line at Big Lake. From there they came on foot, and secured a tract of wild land in section 12, Marysville. They cut down trees, and thus made room for the erection of a small cabin. The first year they planted potatoes and corn among the stumps. Two years later they purchased a yoke of oxen for \$180.00. Gradually they cleared the land and developed a good farm. Ten acres were added to the original tract, and a brick house was started. After a long and useful life, the father died in 1900, at the age of eighty-three. The mother died in 1896, at the age of seventy-six. The father was a Lutheran in faith, and assisted in organizing the first church of that faith in Rockford township. Nels Carlson was but eight years of age, when his parents came to Wright county. He was educated in the district schools, and reared to farm pursuits. In 1882 he took charge of the home place, and has made many improvements

thereon. He added eighty acres, and finished the brick house started by his father. He has been justice of the peace for about a dozen years past. He has been president three years and director two years, of the Scandinavian Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. Mr. Carlson has taken an active part in the progress of his community. He is especially interested in the agricultural development, and is ever ready to support with his influence and enthusiasm everything that is for the best interests of his town and county. Mr. Carlson married Lena Skoglund, who was born in Sweden, the daughter of John and Mary Skoglund. Mr. and Mrs. Carlson have six children: Edward, born June 12, 1885; Anna, born November 27, 1888; Manda, born July 24, 1894; Ida, born August 6, 1900; Mabel, born July 24, 1903; and Florence, born July 26, 1906. Mr. and Mrs. Skoglund came to America from Sweden in 1876, and located near Buffalo. Mr. Skoglund died in 1907, at the age of sixty-eight. Mrs. Skoglund is now living in Buffalo.

**Louis Payne, Sr.**, a leading farmer of Marysville township, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, May 1, 1852, son of Medard and Rose (Gregory) Payne, and nephew of Francis and Joseph Payne. The grandparents were from France, the original family name being Santoum. Medard Payne spent his life as a farmer in Canada, and died at the age of sixty-seven. His wife, Rose, died at about the age of sixty-eight. In the family there were ten children: Nels, Joseph, Mose and Rose (twins), Peter, Alexander, Louis, Mary, Orilla and Magdalena. All except Peter located in Minnesota. Louis was but fifteen when he and his brother, Alexander, went to New York state, and worked three years on a farm. Then they returned to Canada. Three years later they went to Lake Superior. In that region, Louis Payne followed lumbering some fifteen years. Then he came to Maple Lake, and bought forty acres of land in section 1. About ten acres of this land had been cleared. Mr. Payne set at work clearing the remainder, and erected a small house. About two years later he was married. After many years he sold out and bought his present place in Marysville township. About fifteen acres had been cleared, and a part of a house and a swine barn had been erected. He cleared up the place, completed and added to the house, and erected various buildings, including a barn, 44 by 56 feet. Like the other pioneers he started with but little, and used an ox team to help him with his clearing. Now he is prosperous and well-to-do. He carries on general farming and raises full blood Holstein cattle and Chester White thoroughbred swine. For several years he has been road overseer. He is a stockholder in the Buffalo Co-operative Creamery and the Co-operative Store in Waverly. The family faith is that of St. Mary's Catholic Church of Buffalo.





LOUIS PAYNE, SR., AND FAMILY





Mr. Payne, Sr., was married July 26, 1886, to Leona Labo, and they have two children, Louis, Jr., who married Minnie Perisien, and Mary. Leona Labo was the daughter of Joseph Labo, a native of Canada. From Canada, Joseph Labo went to New York state, where he married Catherine La Plant, a native of that state. From New York state they moved to Illinois. In 1872, they came to Maple Lake, took up a farm, lived in a log cabin, cleared up the place with the assistance of a yoke of oxen, and gradually achieved prosperity. Mr. Labo was at one time chorister in his church. He was also sexton and bell ringer. He died at the age of eighty-four. His wife died at the age of sixty-five. In their family there were thirteen children: Joseph, Mary, Phelia, Phelix, Charles, Adeline, Peter, Rosa, Martha, Amelia, Elizabeth, Leonard and Leona.

**Joseph Bland** (deceased), a strong, upright character, who lived for many years in Wright county, was born in what is now Tyler county, West Virginia, near the Pennsylvania line, July 14, 1821, oldest son of Richard Bland, a Virginian farmer. He was reared on the home farm, and while still a youth began work on the Ohio river as pilot and engineer on different steamboats. He married Castilda Wyatt, in 1842, and the following children were born: Thornton, Rachael, Mary, Martin, Samuel, Sampson and Phoebe. Thornton died in 1910. Rachael is Mrs. David Kriedler, of Marysville, this county. Mary died in 1883. Martin is a successful farmer of Marysville. Samuel died in 1892, Sampson in 1882. Phoebe lives with Martin. In 1865 the family came to Wright county, and located on a tract of eighty acres in section 24, Marysville township. About twenty acres had been cleared and a shack had been erected. They moved into the shack, and with one horse and three cows started farming. They cleared the remainder of the tract, and added other pieces of land from time to time until Mr. Bland was the owner of 200 acres of excellent land, as good as any in the county. He carried on general farming and stock raising, and was an unusually successful man. When his prosperity became assured he erected a new house, and from year to year he constructed such barns, sheds and fences as were necessary. Everything around him bespoke his thrift and industry. Mr. Bland served in a number of local offices such as that of town treasurer for five years, and school treasurer for about twenty years, and for one term he was one of the commissioners of Wright county. Mr. Bland died October 9, 1911, at the age of ninety years. He was known far and wide for his droll jesting, and many of his jokes are still remembered. He was strong in his likes and dislikes, and very outspoken, always desiring, however, to do the thing that was right. His death was sincerely mourned. His wife had died in 1889 at the age of sixty-six.

**Martin Bland**, representative farmer of Marysville township, was born in Pine Grove, in what is now Wetzel county, West Virginia, September 20, 1851, son of Joseph and Castilda (Wyatt) Bland, who brought him to Wright county in 1865. He received a district school education and remained at home until 1886. Then he moved onto his own farm, of eight acres, which he had previously acquired in section 23, Marysville. He broke and developed the land, and built a house and other buildings. In 1888 his wife died and for two years he lived on the home place, but in 1890 he again moved back to his own farm. A year later he once more took up his home on his father's place. Since 1912 he had lived on his own place. He rents the land and is practically retired from the more strenuous duties of life. Aside from the original eighty he purchased forty acres in section 14, and forty in section 23. He also owns 100 acres of his father's home place. Mr. Bland has traveled extensively. In the winter of 1884 he spent several months in Wetzel county, West Virginia, and in the winter of 1900 he spent several months in visiting points of interest on the Pacific coast. He has taken an interest in the affairs of his community, and was road supervisor for some twenty years. In every way he is a desirable citizen, and few people in the community are more highly respected than he. He and his sister, Phoebe, live together, and their home is well known for its comfort and good cheer. Mr. Bland was married January 1, 1886, to Anna Laura Baker, of Bayfield, Wis., who died March 13, 1888. October 14, 1890, he was married to Emma R. McCardell, of Montrose, who died October 23, 1891.

**Henry Bremer**, an early settler, was born in Germany, and came to America as a young man. For a time he worked in New York state. Then he came west to Minnesota. In the summer time he worked on the steamboats plying between St. Louis and St. Paul. In the winter he worked on a claim which he took in 1855, on the south shore of Waverly lake, in section 32, Marysville township. This tract was all wild woods. He cut down the trees and with a yoke of oxen started to break the land. The log cabin which he erected is still standing. He was married, about 1862, to Fredericka Schultz, also a native of Germany. He cleared forty acres of land, and was planning to build a new house, when he was stricken with a sun-stroke and died suddenly. He was a man of great strength, and was just at the height of a successful career when he died in 1868, at the age of thirty-four. He was also a devout man, and often walked many miles to attend service at the home of different early settlers. The children in the family were Minnie, Henry, Louis and Fredericka.

**Louis W. Bremer**, noted far and wide as the breeder of the finest horses in the county, was born on his father's homestead, in Marysville township, May 17, 1867, son of Henry and Fredericka (Schultz) Bremer. Left fatherless as an infant, he early learned the responsibilities of life. He attended the district schools to a certain extent, but spent most of his youth working on the home farm. At the age of eighteen he started out to see the world. He saw much of life, traveled in various states, and worked at many occupations. In 1891 he returned, and worked on the homestead for three years as a helper. Then he rented the place. Finally he purchased it. To the original eighty acres he has added one tract of fifty-three acres, and one tract of forty acres. He has erected a modern home and slightly barns. An attractive feature of the place is a new barn, 32 by 80 feet, with a cement floor, patent stanchions, scientific ventilator system, and the most modern sanitary improvements. He takes particular pride in his full blooded Percheron horses, and during the past three years has taken many prizes for his stallions, mares and colts. He also raises a high grade of Shorthorn cattle. Mr. Bremer is a natural leader among his fellows. He has been president of the school board of his district for several terms, president of the Waverly Farmers' Co-operative Creamery for twelve years; and president of the Waverly Farmers' Elevator for the past eight years. He has joined the Masonic order and the United Workmen. Mr. Bremer was married November 28, 1893, to Ida Stuhr, born in Germany, daughter of Herman and Wilhelmina (Mica) Stuhr. They have four children: Wilhelmina, Fredericka, Henry and Sylvia. Herman Stuhr was a carpenter by trade. He came to America in 1873, and worked his way to Stillwater, in this state. The following year his wife, and his eight children, Henry, Herman, Emil, Otto, Emma, Ida, Charles and Rudolph, joined him. Later they secured a farm in section 32, Chatham township, Wright county. They moved into the cabin of Herman Erath, which was so small that they had to hang the table from the ceiling in order to give the children an opportunity to play on the floor. Herman Stuhr died in 1891, at the age of seventy-three. Beginning pioneer life with nothing but a small tract of land and an ox team, he so prospered that at the time of his death he owned a half section of good land. His wife died in 1911, at the age of seventy-three.

**Charles H. Ferrell**, a retired and respected farmer of Montrose, was born in West Virginia, February 19, 1850, son of Elisha Ferrell, the pioneer, who brought him to this county in 1865. He attended the district schools and grew to manhood on the farm. When he was twenty-one, he bought forty acres adjoining his father's homestead in Woodland township. On this tract of land he erected a log cabin, and started developing the farm.



Ten years later he replaced the cabin with a modern dwelling. He also added forty more acres to his farm and still later ten more acres. There he farmed for many years, attaining material success and the respect of the community. In 1912 he moved to the village of Montrose, where he now makes his home, and where he has some good property. While in the country, Mr. Ferrell served six years as a member of the school board of his district. Formerly he was a member of the Montrose Co-operative Creamery Company, and he is still a director of the Montrose Mercantile Company. He belongs to the lodge, the Canton and the Encampment of the I. O. O. F., and his wife is a member of the Degree of Rebekah. Mr. Ferrell was married in 1872 to Mrs. Lorana Stacy, daughter of Henry and Catherine Hainor and widow of Ezra Stacy. Two children, Arthur and Anna V., were born. Mrs. Lorana Ferrell died in 1891, and in 1893 Mr. Ferrell married Mary H. Swarthout, born in Saratoga county, New York, May 5, 1852, daughter of Kramer and Charlotte (Burch) Swarthout, the pioneers.

**Kramer Swarthout**, one of the pioneers, was born in Saratoga county, New York, in 1823, and there married Charlotte Burch. They came to Minnesota in 1856, and located on the west side of the Mississippi river, ten miles below St. Paul. In 1857 they came to Wright county, driving a yoke of cows. They settled in Woodland township, to which they afterward added until they owned 160 acres. When they arrived in the county they were \$2.50 in debt. For the first six months they lived in a shanty roofed with hay. Mr. Swarthout several times walked to St. Anthony, bringing from there a fifty-pound sack of flour on his back. Two days before the Indian outbreak he took his family to Rockford and enlisted in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, in which he served, first against the Indians in the Northwest and then against the Confederates in the South. His only injury was a slight scratch from a bullet. After the war he returned home and resumed farm work. He was prominent in the Methodist Episcopal church and was the first class leader of that denomination in this vicinity. He was also a prominent member of the G. A. R. Mr. Swarthout died August 30, 1909. His wife died in May, 1903. In the Swarthout family there were six children: Marie, Sibyl, Julia, Mary H., Charlotte Ophelia and John (deceased).

**Oscar A. Denzel**, miller, proprietor of the Montrose Roller Mills, is one of the most substantial men of the village. He was born in Waconia, Minn., November 14, 1875, son of Xavier and Augusta (Vallroth) Denzel, natives of Germany. The father was a miller by trade, and after locating in this country took up the milling business in Carver county, this state. He died in 1902 at the age of fifty-five. His wife is still living at Watertown.





MR. AND MRS. DAVID C. KRIEDLER

In the family there were two boys and five girls. Oscar A. Denzel attended the public schools of Carver county, and learned the milling business from his father. For fourteen years he worked at this trade in Watertown, in his native county. In 1899 he came to Montrose, and in partnership with L. C. St. John, J. P. Thornquist and Herman Schultz, erected the Montrose Roller Mills. In time L. C. St. John withdrew and the other three partners continued the business. Now Messrs. Thornquist and Schultz are out of the concern and Mr. Denzel is the sole owner and proprietor. The Montrose Roller Mills have a daily capacity of seventy-five barrels. The mills have been in operation fifteen years, and in addition to apparatus for manufacturing household flour, feed, graham, cornmeal and whole wheat flour, a sawmill for custom sawing has also been maintained. The main building is 30 by 44 feet, and a basement with a brick engine room, 26 by 34 feet. Steam power is furnished by a sixty horse-power engine. The principal brand manufactured here is the "Happy Home," a flour that because of its sterling worth has met with wide favor from the housewives throughout a large area. Mr. Denzel has done most efficient service as a member of the village council. Fraternally he is a member of Montrose Lodge, No. 185, I. O. O. F. He was married in 1900 to Adaline Malsed, born in Watertown, Carver county, this state, daughter of John and Sarah Malsed, pioneers who in the early days settled near Howard Lake in Wright county, from which place they later moved to Carver county. Mrs. Malsed assisted in binding up the wounds of Mrs. Dustin, one of the victims of the Dustin massacre. Mr. and Mrs. Denzel have one child, Arlys.

**David C. Kriedler**, an enterprising farmer of Marysville township, was born in Washington county, Pennsylvania, March 10, 1846, son of Daniel and Mary M. (McColough) Kriedler. He lost his mother when a very small boy. In 1859 he was brought to Wright county by his father and stepmother, and helped in clearing up and developing the homestead. He received his early education in Stillwater, Minn. As a youth he enlisted in Company A, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and was under arms at Ft. Snelling. While he and the others were away from home there were still many Indians, but they were at that time friendly to those who had been left behind. After a service of three months and ten days, David C. Kriedler was discharged on account of illness. He then returned to the home farm, and there remained until his marriage in 1866. In 1867 he secured his present place of eighty acres in section 24. The tract was entirely covered with woods, and no buildings had been erected thereon. He erected a log cabin, 16 by 22 feet, and started with no farm equipment to establish for himself a home in the wilderness. His first fences were of rails. Often he had to walk to St. Paul for



supplies. For some time he was compelled to do his breaking with oxen that he hired by paying \$4 a day and board. Later he bought a yoke of oxen. He had no wagon, but used a Yankee Jumper sled the first summer. He still tells with delight of the times that he swam the oxen and sled across Crow river to get to Rockford. But in time circumstances improved, and he is now a successful man, surrounded with all the comforts and conveniences of life. He has erected a modern home and commodious barns, and has an excellent equipment of farm implements. For many years he carried on general farming and made a specialty of Shorthorn cattle. Now he has practically retired from active life. He delights to tell of the old days, and is a most interesting talker. One of his stories is of the trip he took to rescue the surviving members of the Dustin family after the famous massacre. David C. Kriedler was married November 1, 1866, to Rachel Bland, who was born in West Virginia November 9, 1845, and came to Wright county with her parents in 1865. Mr. and Mrs. Kriedler adopted a bright boy, Fred Hurley, now deceased. Their religious faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**George W. Kriedler**, a prosperous farmer of Marysville township, was born in Butler, Pa., February 6, 1843, son of Daniel and Mary M. (McColough) Kriedler. He lost his mother when a very small boy. In 1859 he was brought to Wright county by his father and stepmother, and helped in clearing up and developing the homestead. His education was meagre, but this he has supplemented with wide reading and close observation. August 22, 1862, he enlisted in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until discharged at Charlotte, N. C., July 11, 1865. After his return from the war he located on eighty acres in section 30, Franklin township. This was all wild land. He cleared the land, erected a log cabin and established for himself a home in the wilderness. In time he bought land until he owned 178½ acres. He erected a brick veneered home and roomy barns, and equipped his farm with the best tools and implements. Mr. Kriedler is a prominent man in the community. For some years he has been a member of the school board. He is a charter member of Montrose Lodge, No. 185, I. O. O. F., and also a member of the G. A. R. On October 29, 1911, Mr. and Mrs. Kriedler retired and moved to Montrose, where they now reside. George W. Kriedler was married, November 1, 1866, to Margaretha Stoltz, born in Bavaria, Germany, February 10, 1847, daughter of Joseph and Catherine (Stephanie) Kriedler. Mr. and Mrs. Kriedler have had five children: Wilhelmina, born September 13, 1867; Lettie May, born March 12, 1870 (died January 8, 1879); Arthur Stoltz, born January 20, 1872; Gertrude Agatha, born June 19, 1874 (died March 24, 1901); and Lydia, born June

13, 1877. Joseph Stoltz was born in Bavaria, Germany, and there married Catherine Stephanie. In 1852 he brought his family to America and settled in Cincinnati, Ohio. In 1855 they came to St. Paul, and in 1861 settled on eighty acres of woodland on the shores of Fountain lake, in Franklin township, this county. Mrs. Stoltz died June 23, 1857, and is buried in Calvary cemetery, St. Paul. In the Stoltz family there were nine children: Martin was born October 24, 1841, and died in April, 1843; Frank was born in 1844; Margaretha was born February 10, 1847; Valentine was born August 9, 1848; Agatha was born November 26, 1849; Caroline was born September 7, 1851, and died on the Atlantic ocean en route for the United States in July, 1852; Adam was born January 6, 1853 and died August 4 of the same year; Veronica was born April 7, 1854, and died July 9 the same year; Philip was born May 28, 1857, and died July 6 of the same year. After the death of his first wife, Mr. Stoltz married Mary Stumpf, a widow, and to this union there was born one child, Eloisa, born August 18, 1858, and died July 23, 1860. Joseph Stoltz died April 30, 1885, and is buried at Watertown, Minn.

**Daniel Kriedler**, a pioneer, was born in Hanover, Northampton county, Pennsylvania, April 9, 1803, and was there reared. In 1825 he married Mary Magdalene McColough, who died May 2, 1850. Their children were: John, born May 2, 1826; Elizabeth, born June 15, 1828; James A., born in August, 1830; William Henry, born April 31, 1832; Maria, born October 15, 1833; Samuel G., born February 27, 1836; Mary Ann, born January 27, 1839; Daniel Webster, born December 25, 1841; George W., born February 6, 1843; David Conrad, born March 10, 1846; Joseph D., born September 25, 1849. For his second wife, Daniel Kriedler was married, May 1, 1851, to Elizabeth Row, born July 2, 1821. They had one daughter, Harriet, born October 20, 1856. In the family there was also an adopted daughter, Jennette Moon, born July 12, 1862. Daniel Kriedler brought his family to Wright county in 1859, and located on 160 acres in Marysville township. He erected a log house, and got in his first crops without the aid of horses or oxen. Later he secured a yoke of oxen. Gradually he prospered and became a successful farmer. He died August 15, 1871, well beloved and deeply mourned. He was a devout Methodist in faith, and the first services in this vicinity were held under a maple tree in his yard.

**William E. Redman**, buttermaker of the Montrose Co-operative Creamery, is one of the rising young men of the county. Thoroughly competent in his own line of business, he is pleasant and affable, and has made himself a general favorite among those who do business at his creamery. He was born April 1, 1889, at Albee, S. D., son of Michael Redman. He was educated in the district schools, graduated from the grammar grades, and at once started

to learn the art of buttermaking. May 14, 1904, he became assistant buttermaker at the Albee Creamery, and was in that position two years. Then he went to Revello, S. D., for one and a half years as buttermaker at the co-operative creamery there. From January to May, 1907, he was at Mylo, S. D. In April, 1907, he went to Wist, S. D. It was in the spring of 1910 that he came to Montrose to become buttermaker for the Montrose Creamery. In this capacity he has more than made good. Fraternally he belongs to the Montrose Lodge, No. 185, I. O. O. F. His wife belongs to the Royal Neighbors. Mr. Redman has won high honors and several diplomas during his charge of buttermaking. At the contest held in St. Paul by the Food and Dairy Department in July, 1913, he received the highest score of 96. At the May contest held by the Food and Dairy Department he scored 96 also. At the Northwestern Fair, held at Crookston, Minn., he secured first prize and sweepstakes, scoring 95½. This fair was held July 16, 17 and 18, 1914. Mr. Redman was married October 6, 1910, to Kate Schneider, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schneider, of South Dakota. They have two children: Raymond, born May 12, 1912, and Olive, born November 8, 1913.

**Joel Newton Haven**, one of the founders of Montrose, was born at Ellisburg, Jefferson county, New York, December 16, 1837, third youngest child of Cyrus and Irene (Otis) Haven. The family came to Illinois in 1844, and here Joel N. grew to manhood. December 31, 1862, he married Eunice L. Hinsdell, and in 1870, they came to Iowa. In 1872 they located in what is now Montrose in Wright county. With his brother, J. Otis Haven, he engaged in the sawmill business. The partnership terminated when the brother went to Charles City, Iowa, and Joel N. then continued the business until his declining years when he sold out. When he came here there was no station at Montrose. The railroad had been built, but it had not then been determined whether there should be a station at Quinn's Corners or at Haven's Sawmill. The presence of the sawmill decided the question in favor of the latter location, and Mr. Haven was one of those who contributed for the location. He acquired forty acres at the edge of the corporate limits, and there his widow now lives in a sightly residence well in keeping with her honored standing in the community. Mr. Haven was a prominent and generous man. His private benefactions were many, and he never failed to assist in any move that had for its object the progress and betterment of the community. He was clerk of his school district for eighteen years, and supervisor of Marysville township for several terms. At one time he ran for a seat in the lower house of the Minnesota legislature, and was defeated by a narrow margin. Though not a communicant of any church body, he was a sincere Christian, and labored



MR. AND MRS. JOEL N. HAVEN





earnestly for the advance of the churches in this community. He died February 24, 1911, after a useful life filled with worthy endeavor. Mr. Haven was a veteran of the Civil War. He enlisted in Company I, 52nd Illinois Volunteer Infantry. At the Battle of Shiloh he was shot through the mouth, and being thus incapacitated for service was honorably discharged. As the result of this service he joined the G. A. R., first in Illinois, and later in Minnesota. Mr. and Mrs. Haven had four children: Frank, Nora, Stella and Kittie. Frank was born May 12, 1865, and died March 12, 1891. He took up literary pursuits, was editor of the Litchfield Saturday Review for about five years, and then moved to Sauk Centre, where he planned to publish the Sauk Centre Herald. Just as the first issues were out, he died suddenly March 12, 1891. Nora was born November 7, 1867, and married William G. Michael, station agent at Montrose, by whom she has four children: Esther, Milton, Gerald and George. Stella was born August 26, 1869, and was married July 27, 1892, to H. J. Crooks, editor and publisher of the Swift County Review, at Benson, Minnesota. They have a daughter, Ethel. Kittie was born September 9, 1871, and now teaches school at Minneapolis. Eunice L. Hinsdell was born in Dundee, Kane county, Illinois, June 15, 1840, daughter of Jonathan and Levyne (Hamilton) Hinsdell. Jonathan Hinsdell was born in Saratoga county, New York, March 13, 1791. He married Levyna Hamilton, born August 30, 1807, daughter of David and Jerusha Hamilton, the former of whom was a veteran of the War of 1812.

**William Hudson Wright**, postmaster of Montrose, was born on the banks of Lake Minnetonka, in Hennepin county, this state, September 8, 1857, son of George M. Wright. He was reared on the home farm, and attended school in an old log building, that stood on a part of his father's homestead, section 35, Marysville township, now a part of the village of Montrose, where the family located in 1858. As a young man he went to Lake Minnetonka for a while, and remained there until 1884, when he returned to Montrose, purchased the store and was appointed postmaster. He has since continued to be postmaster, with the exception of eight years. While he was out of the office he conducted a hotel and barber shop. He still owns the hotel building and still conducts the barber shop. He is a popular man in the community, and his administration of postal affairs has met with general satisfaction. While at Lake Minnetonka, Mr. Wright was a member of the Grange. He now belongs to the lodge, the Encampment and the Rebekah degree of the Odd Fellows. George M. Wright was married, May 27, 1855, to Sophia M. Hainor, who was born February 2, 1834. Their children were: Herbert, born March 13, 1856; William

Hudson, born September 8, 1857; Ernest, January 1860; Henry Lester, September 26, 1861; James Clarence, December 27, 1863; Charles Edward, September 16, 1866; George Dwight, August 29, 1868; Abbott Grant, April 27, 1870; Annie L., December 7, 1872; and John Wesley, March 30, 1876.

**George M. Wright**, a pioneer, was born in Wyoming county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1835, and as a youth became a ship's carpenter. He was married, May 27, 1855, to Sophia M. Hainor, who was born February 2, 1834. Shortly afterward he brought her to Minnesota, and settled on the banks of Lake Minnetonka, in Hennepin county. In 1858 he brought his family to Wright county, and located on eighty acres in section 35, in what is now Marysville township. A part of this tract later became the village of Montrose. He built a cabin of square hewed logs, the best to be found in the county at that time. There were no roads leading to the place, but nearby was a trail to Minneapolis. He began farming with the assistance of a pair of oxen. First he used a sled for a vehicle, later he got a two-wheeled wagon. He owned one cow. They saw many hard times, and there were many days when the only food they had was corn bread, made from corn ground in the coffee mill. During the Indian troubles he put his wife and children in the two-wheeled cart and took them to the stockade at Rockford, but he himself returned to look after the stock. A little later he enlisted in the Third Battery. At his cabin, the first postoffice was established, and it was he who gave it the name of Montrose, after a town in his home county in Pennsylvania. After holding the office for some years he resigned in favor of W. P. Holbrook, who held the office until the appointment of William H. Wright, son of George M. Wright, the first postmaster. Mr. Wright was married in September, 1877, to Ida May Cowan, of Lake Minnetonka, daughter of W. S. and Mary (Frear) Cowan. This union has been blessed with three children: William Linn, who assists his father; Lois Clare, wife of Roy Gibb, of Cottonwood, Minn.; and Bernice, a schoolteacher. The Cowan family came from Pennsylvania in the early days, and settled on the east shore of Lake Minnetonka. Mr. Cowan was master of the State Grange, twelve years county commissioner of Hennepin county, one of the building committee at the time of the erection of the Hennepin County Court House, and a member of the state legislature.

**James Christopher Nolan**, a scientific farmer of Marysville township, was born on the old homestead where he still resides, April 25, 1869, son of James and Catherine (Cramsie) Nolan. He was reared on the home place, attended the district schools, and learned farming from his relatives. He now carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of raising good stock, principally hogs and cattle. He is town clerk of Marysville, and a







AUGUST ZEIDLER AND FAMILY

stockholder in the Co-operative Creamery and the Co-operative Store, at Montrose. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

**James Nolan**, a pioneer cooper, was born in County Carlow, Ireland, came to the United States and settled near Binghamton, New York. There he married Catherine Cramsie, and there the two oldest children, Mary and John, were born. In 1860, he brought his family West, first designing to work in Minneapolis. Changing his mind, however, he continued on his way, and selected a claim in section 34, Marysville township. He took this place because it was covered with a heavy growth of white oak. From this white oak he split open staves, making pork barrels, butter firkins and butter churns, which he sold in various neighborhoods. The family still has in its possession a churn made by him. He erected a log cabin, and against one of its sides constructed a lean-to, in which he did his cooper work. The sight of Mr. Nolan, driving along his oxen, with a wagon filled with barrels, became a familiar sight throughout the neighborhood. During the Indian troubles he and his family fled to St. Paul. Upon his return he still continued at his trade, breaking only such land as he needed for the raising of supplies for his family. He died in 1878. He was a good man, and helped to build the early Catholic church in this vicinity. His wife, Catherine Cramsie, was born near Belfast, in the north of Ireland, and came to the United States about 1827. She died in 1897, aged about seventy-two. They had four children: Kate, who died at the age of about twelve years; William, Anna and James Christopher.

**August Zeidler**, a prominent farmer of Middleville township, was born in Prussia, Germany, August 24, 1858, son of John Frederick and Rosine (Brandt) Zeidler, who brought him to Wright county in 1872. Previous to his coming here he had received a good education in the schools of his native land. The family settled in section 23, and here August Zeidler grew to manhood. He drove the old ox team, helped to clear the land, lived in the log cabin and experienced all the rigors of pioneer life. While still a boy he earned considerable money digging ginseng, sometimes receiving as much as thirty cents a pound for the green root. When he was twenty-six years of age, he bought a tract of 120 acres in section 3, Middleville township, where he has since continued to reside. The tract was covered with timber, and the roads were new and rough. He erected a log house, 16 by 24, and a log barn, a part of which is still standing. He began his farming operations with a pair of steers and two cows. It was the second year before he was able to get a pair of horses. He cut down trees, dug out the stumps, and as the years passed developed a splendid farm. He has erected a modern home, and a barn 34 by 72 feet, and to

his original tract has added sixty acres in section 10. This barn with its scientific equipment is in decided contrast to the old log barn 20 by 26, which he first erected, and his automobile is in striking contrast to the yoke of oxen and old wagon with which he originally went to market. He has watched the county grow into a prosperous farming community, and has taken his part in its progress. Mr. Zeidler was married February 12, 1885, to Louise Bobrowske, born in Germany, October 17, 1866, daughter of Andrew and Josephine (Zeidler) Bobrowske, who brought her to Wright county in 1871, when she was five years of age, and located in section 2, Middleville township, where she was reared. Mr. and Mrs. Zeidler have had seven children: Martha, Augusta, Minnie, Clara, Alvina, Ida and Leonard. Martha is now Mrs. William Krauel, of Woodland township. Augusta is Mrs. Arthur Schwartz, of Texas.

**John M. Rhodin**, farmer and contractor, of Middleville township, was born on the homestead where he still resides, January 25, 1883, son of C. J. and Christena (Westeberg) Rhodin. He was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and had the advantages of a short course in the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. He has a fertile farm of eighty acres, and raises the usual crops, making a specialty of a good grade of stock, and of thoroughbred Plymouth Rock fowl. In addition to this he is a general contractor, doing cement work and building. He is a prominent man, and has been on the school board of his district for some years. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**C. J. Rhodin**, a worthy pioneer, was born in Sweden, in 1834, and came to America in 1869, located first in Carver county, and later coming to Wright county, and settling on the present homestead in Middleville township, in 1879. In 1881 he married Christena Westeberg. Together they underwent many trials and privations, worked hard, and in time achieved prosperity. For many years they lived in a small log house, and Mr. Rhodin used a yoke of oxen to help with the farm work. Mr. Rhodin died January 14, 1900. Mrs. Rhodin lives on the homestead with her son, John M. Rhodin.

**S. D. McVeety**, a prosperous farmer of Middleville township, was born in North Augusta, province of Ontario, Canada, January 1, 1871, son of David McVeety. In 1877 he came with his parents to the United States and located with them on the farm where he has since continued to reside. He attended the district schools, learned farming from his father, and after his father's death took charge of the home farm. He has been very successful, has made many improvements, and is one of the leading farmers of the community. With him lives his honored mother. S. D. McVeety was married February 15, 1893, to Clara



King, a native of Middleville. They have seven children: Gladys Elizabeth was born February 10, 1894; Mary Lucinda was born August 14, 1895; Sarah Evelyn was born October 7, 1898; David E. was born January 16, 1900; Thomas and Edwin, twins, died in infancy; Robert A. was born April 2, 1907.

**David McVeety**, an honored pioneer of Middleville township, now deceased, was born in Lanark county, Province of Ontario, Canada, in 1825, son of Thomas and Catharine (McLean) McVeety. The parents were born, reared and married in the north of Ireland, came to Canada as young people, located in Ontario province, and devoted the remainder of their lives to farming. In their family there were three children: Thomas, James and David. David was the youngest. He was reared on the farm in Canada, and after his marriage in 1853 continued in the same occupation. In Canada their ten children were born. They were: Thomas W., born July 24, 1854; Alexander, born June 21, 1856; James Henry, born June 27, 1858; Sarah Jane, born June 30, 1860; John A., born November 3, 1862; Catherine Isabella, born September 16, 1864; Charles Edwin, born November 17, 1866; Jane, born March 12, 1868; S. D., born January 1, 1871; Mary Elizabeth, born March 12, 1873. In 1875 the son, Alexander, came to the United States and bought eighty acres in section 9, Middleville township. A small frame house had been built, and eighteen or twenty acres had been cleared. To this place, in 1877, came David McVeety, his wife and the other children. They purchased the land from Alexander, and there spent the remainder of their years. The farm is now occupied by the son, S. D., who has greatly developed the farm, and is considered one of the leading men in the township. Mr. McVeety died March 15, 1889. Mrs. McVeety still resides on the old home farm.

David McVeety was married, as noted, in 1853, to Elizabeth Frasier, born in Drummond, Lanark county, Province of Ontario, Canada, March 26, 1834, daughter of Alexander and Sarah (Howell) Frasier. Alexander Frasier was a soldier in the English war. He was born in Scotland, married a native of Essex, England, and came to Canada. Of their fourteen children, twelve grew to adult years.

**John Albert Stenberg**, an influential farmer of Middleville township, was born in Dahlgren township, Carver county, this state, son of Carl J. and Mary Stenburg, natives of Sweden. In 1851 the parents, with their three children, Fred, Augusta and Matilda, set out for the United States. After a long and tedious voyage aboard a sailing vessel, they reached New York City. Their funds were entirely exhausted, and for three years they remained in New York state. Then they started westward, and by boat, rail and horse team reached Carver county, in this state,



where they secured 120 acres in the heart of the woods. They erected a log building in which to live, and started to clear the land. They had no means, and it was several years before they could get an ox team. A little money was earned by digging ginseng root at five cents a pound. Supplies came up the river from St. Paul in boats. After a time a frame house was erected. Carl J. Stenborg was a devout Lutheran, and helped to build the early church of that faith in this locality. He died in 1878 at the age of seventy-two. His wife died twenty years later, at the age of eighty-five years. Three children were born in Carver county. They were John Albert, William and Anna. John Albert attended the district schools of his neighborhood, and remained on the home farm until his marriage in 1880, when he came to Middleville township and bought seventy acres of woodland in section 7. He erected a log building, which is still standing, and with an ox team began to clear the land. To the original tract he added another forty which he also cleared. He has brought the place to a high stage of development, has erected modern barns and a good residence and carries on general farming and raises high-grade stock. He has been a stockholder of the Farmers' Elevator at Howard Lake and the Co-operative Creamery in Middleville, has served as town assessor and supervisor, and as a member of the school board. He belongs to the Masonic order and to the Episcopal church. In 1880 Mr. Stenberg married Ella Errickson, born in Norway October 27, 1855, a daughter of Erick Errickson, of Middleville township. The children born to this union were: Alice, born September 15, 1880; Ida, born March 13, 1882; Mary, born August 19, 1883; Frank, born February 25, 1885; Edwin, born May 28, 1887. For his second wife he married Julia Errickson, a sister of his first wife, born July 17, 1864. The children born to this marriage are: George, born May 6, 1891; Effie, born October 17, 1894; Nettie, born February 17, 1896; Addie, born July 12, 1897; and John and Charles, twins, born May 12, 1902.

**John A. Johnson**, an enterprising citizen of Middleville township, was born in Sweden, son of Jonas and Anne (Peterson) Johnson, who brought him and the rest of the family to Wisconsin in 1868 and to Minnesota in 1870. He attended the district schools, and helped with the farm work. He took his share in clearing and developing the place, and remembers driving the oxen hitched to the reaper and binder. As a boy he was interested in the flour industry and enjoyed playing about the Carver mill at Kingston. As a young man he went to Cokato, in this county, where he bought grain for eight years, part of the time for himself and part of the time as a representative of outside concerns. Later he became a mercantile clerk in Cokato, and in this employment he remained three years. Then he went to Dell

Grove township, in Pine county, this state, and opened a store. While there he served as township assessor. After nine years in Pine county he came to Middleville township, in this county, and bought out the store of August Pearson, at Knapp. Six years later he located at Albrechts' Corners, and purchased the general store and the Crow River Roller Mills. After two years he sold out the store, and has since given his entire attention to the mills. He manufactures the Riverside brand of flour, which enjoys a steady sale and is widely known for its excellence. Mr. Johnson married Ellen Sundberg, a native of Cokato township and descended from an early pioneer family. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have one daughter, Nora, a graduate of the Cokato high school.

**Jonas Johnson**, a pioneer, was born in Sweden in 1823, and there spent the early half of his life. He married Anne Peterson, also a native of Sweden, and they had four children: Anna, Andrew, John and Lewis. The family came to America in August, 1868, and located in Wisconsin. The daughter, Anna, remained in Wisconsin, but in April, 1870, the rest of the family came to Wright county. Jonas Johnson secured eighty acres of wild land in section 28, buying out the rights of a homesteader. A small log house, 14 by 12, stood on the place. The cabin was six feet high. Split logs were used for flooring. The first corn was planted with a grub hoe in between the stumps. In return for breaking wild steers the men of the family secured for a short time the use of the animals that they tamed. After three years Mr. Johnson erected a barn and purchased a cow. Soon a pair of oxen was bought. Another eighty acres was purchased, and this was cleared with the assistance of the sons. Good buildings were erected and the family assumed a leading position in the community. They went through privations and hardships and in time reaped the reward of their hard work. Mr. Johnson was a prominent member of the North Crow River Lutheran Church at Knapp. He helped build the first church, served as trustee many years, and before the days of the organ led the singing. He died in 1891. His wife died in 1889.

**Herman J. Prigge**, an influential farmer of Middleville township, was born in Germany, June 30, 1869, son of Henry and Dorothy (Prohl) Prigge, who brought him to Victor township in 1870. He attended the district schools to a limited extent, and was reared to farm pursuits by his father. He remained at home until his marriage, and then purchased 120 acres in section 27, Middleville township, where he still lives. The tract had been partly cleared, and a frame house had been erected on it. Mr. Prigge continued to improve and develop the land, and in 1909 he erected a splendid barn, 32 by 80 feet, with cement floor, patent stanchions and a modern ventilator system. He carries on general farming, but makes a specialty of stockraising. Being

a believer in co-operation among farmers, he has taken shares in the Howard Lake Creamery, the Howard Lake Telephone Company and the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Middleville. Mr. Prigge was married in 1898 to Minnie Mueller, born in Woodland township, the daughter of Henry and Augusta (Barth) Mueller, and they have four children: Walter, Lauretta, Alene and Evelyn. Walter was born October 20, 1899, Lauretta June 11, 1903, Alene December 24, 1907, and Evelyn November 14, 1913.

**Henry Prigge**, a pioneer, was born in Hamburg, Germany, son of John Henry Prigge. He was reared and educated in Germany, and was there married. In 1870, with his wife and son, Herman J., he started for the United States. The voyage was made aboard an old sailing vessel, and it was six weeks from the time they embarked until they landed. They came across the country to St. Paul and from there to Victor township, where they secured sixty acres in section 14, on the banks of Lake Ann. This tract was mostly woods, though a clearing had been made, a few apple trees planted, and a log cabin and log barn erected. Mr. Prigge started farming with an ox team and two cows. He was well on the road to success when one night in the coldest part of the winter the buildings were burned to the ground. But he reconstructed the buildings, and continued to live there for a short time. Later he moved to a tract of 120 acres in section 15, Middleville. A road led past the place but the tract itself was covered with woods and no buildings had been erected. He erected a house of hewed logs, which is still a part of the present residence, and put up a barn large enough for two horses and two cows. He added forty acres in section 16, cleared up the place, added a frame house to the log cabin, enlarged the barn, erected sheds and made other improvements. He raised general crops and went extensively into stock raising. When the first Lutheran meeting in this vicinity was held in the first house erected on the shores of Dutch lake, he attended, and he later became an officer of the Lutheran church at Howard Lake. Being active in all progressive moves, he was a stockholder in the Howard Lake Co-operative Creamery and in the Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Middleville. He was also the first man to erect a silo in the county, in 1900. Mr. Prigge died August 10, 1910. Henry Prigge married Dorothy Prohl, also a native of Germany. They had seven children: Herman J., Charlotte, Theodore, Bernard, Ella, Pauline and Henry.

**Frank T. Prohl**, an estimable farmer of Middleville township, was born in Hanover, Germany, March 21, 1855, son of C. and Maria (Marquard) Prohl, who spent the span of their years in Germany. C. Prohl was a man of some importance in his native village, and served for many years as supervisor of roads. In



the family there were eight children: William, Dora, Helen, Frank, Herman, Mariah, Anna and Frederick. Of these, Helen was the first to reach the United States. She came in 1869. Frank T. came in 1870. He located in Carver county, this state, and worked as a farm hand until 1885, when he came to Wright county and became a clerk at Howard Lake. He was married two years later, and settled on his present place in section 17, Middleville township. The tract then consisted of eighty acres, partly improved. He has cleared and developed it, erected suitable buildings, and added forty acres more. He now carries on general farming and stock raising in a very successful manner. Mr. Prohl is a very important man in the community. He has been town clerk for the past dozen or so years, and has been a member of the school board for many terms. For eighteen years he has been manager of the Howard Lake Co-operative Creamery, and for a long period he was secretary of the Middleville Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He was secretary of the Farmers' Elevator Company, of Howard Lake, for a long period of time, and in the early days he was secretary of the Farmers' Alliance. He is likewise a leader in the German Lutheran church and has been its secretary and treasurer for twenty-five years past. His favorite breeds of stock are the full-blooded Holsteins of which he has a nice drove, and Poland-China swine, which he likewise raises in goodly numbers. Mr. Prohl was married, in 1887, to Anna Miller, born in Hanover, Germany, July 23, 1857, daughter of Peter and Magdalena Miller, who came to the United States in 1868, lived in New York state until 1871, then came to Woodland township, and in the eighties located in Middleville township, cleared up the land, erected a good home, and there spent the remainder of their lives. Mr. and Mrs. Prohl have had eight children: Frank, born June 25, 1888; Marie, born February 1, 1889; Dora, born March 14, 1891; Emma, born September 19, 1892; Paul, born December 14, 1893; Albert, born June 3, 1895; Ella, born August 21, 1896; Delia, born March 9, 1901. By her previous marriage to Claus Mahlstedt, Mrs. Prohl had four children: Augusta, born September 30, 1878; Heinrich, born January 30, 1880; Wilhelm, born October 8, 1881; Gustave, born May 16, 1883.

**Andrew Erickson**, an active farmer of Middleville township, was born in section 18, where he still lives, January 29, 1874, son of Erick and Ella (Gustrud) Erickson. Erick Erickson was born February 10, 1821, in Kongs, Vinger, Sogten, Norway, and was married, March 3, 1851, to Ella Gustrud, who was born in Gustrud, Eskog, Sogten, Norway, February 2, 1829, and died September 8, 1911. The children in the family were: Erick, born May 13, 1857; Andrew, born July 17, 1853 (died in Norway); Ella, born October 27, 1855; Hans, born January 2, 1857; Ole,



born November 14, 1859 (died in Norway) ; Ole, born January 7, 1861 ; Julia, born July 17, 1863 ; Annie, born November 15, 1865 ; Andrew, born January 29, 1874 ; Mary, born March 8, 1887. The two youngest were born in the United States, the rest in Norway. Erick Erickson, the father, came to America in the spring of 1868, and in the fall arrived in Carver county, Minnesota. In 1871 he reached Wright county, and purchased sixty-eight acres in section 18, Middleville township. This tract, situated on the banks of the Crow river, was entirely wild and covered with woods. He erected a log cabin, and with the assistance of a yoke of oxen started to clear the land. He worked on the railroad from Smith's Lake, then the end of the line, westward through Wright county, and was thus enabled to secure sufficient funds to send for his wife and family. On this place in Middleville township Andrew Erickson was born and reared and here he has since continued to reside. He manages the place in a capable manner and carries on general farming. He is highly regarded, he is a useful citizen, and his worth is fully appreciated throughout the community. Erick Erickson, now nearly ninety-three years of age, is still living on the old home farm with his son Andrew, and despite his advanced years is still quite active.

**Edward Gilmer**, a prosperous business man of Smith's Lake, Middleville township, was born May 6, 1866, in Ontario, Canada, son of Archibald and Susan (Christie) Gilmer, natives respectively of Ireland and Scotland, who were brought to Canada by their parents when they were children. They were married in Canada, and after their marriage continued to live there about twenty-two years. The children born there were: William J., Jane, Mary Ann, David, Burley, Tessa, Archibald, Allen and Edward. Another child, Christie, was born in Minnesota. The family came to Minnesota in 1872 and secured a tract of 136 acres in section 6, Victor township. To this they added forty acres more the following spring. Some eight or ten acres had been cut over by the process of girdling the trees. A log house, 12 by 16 feet, had been erected, and into this the family moved, taxing its capacity to the utmost. Soon a larger log house was built. With the help of a team of horses the land was cleared, and as time passed a modern home and comfortable barns and out-buildings were erected. Archibald Gilmer assisted in erecting the first schoolhouse in district 87, and he also helped to erect and support the Presbyterian church at Howard Lake. After a useful and successful career he died in 1902 at the age of seventy-seven. His wife died two years later at the age of seventy-six. Edward Gilmer was brought to Minnesota by his parents, and was reared on the home farm, attending the district school. At the age of twenty-one he started for himself on a farm of forty acres in





AUGUST BIRKHOLOZ AND FAMILY

Victor township. This tract was partly improved. He erected the buildings and lived on the place until 1900, when he gave up his farm pursuits. He now owns land in Canada which he bought in 1900, and also eighty acres in section 2, Victor township, which he bought in 1911. From 1900 to 1906 he dealt in livestock. Since 1906 he has been grain buyer for the Thorpe Elevator Company, at Smith's Lake, Middleville township. He is an expert at his business, and is widely known for his honor and fair dealing. His fraternal associations are with the Woodmen at Howard Lake. Mr. Gilmer was married in 1896 to Mrs. Sadie Lyren, daughter of John Johnson, now deceased, a resident of Middleville township. Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer have two children: Anna, now Mrs. R. C. Mealey, and Andrew, now of Minneapolis.

**August H. Birkholz.** Frederick Birkholz, the founder of the family of that name in Wright county, was born in Germany. As a young man he married Amelia Wentlund, and they had seven children: Fred, William, Charles, August, Ritka, Minnie and Mary. These young people, except Mary and August, came to the United States and settled in Wright county before 1879. In 1879 came Frederick Birkholz, his wife and his daughter, Mary, now Mrs. William Koutz, of Delano. They took up their residence with the son, Fred Birkholz, in Victor township. Frederick Birkholz died at the age of eighty-four, his wife at the age of seventy-seven. August Birkholz was born December 14, 1844, was reared in Germany, and there married, in 1865, to Albertina Schmaltz, who was born December 23, 1847. In 1880 he came to the United States with his three children, August H., William and Mary. He settled on eighty acres in section 19, Victor township, and started to develop the farm. For three years he used a yoke of oxen in clearing the land. He built first a log house and a log barn, and as the time passed he erected a modern house and barns. When he arrived, no road led past the house, but later one was built, thus placing him in better connection with the outside world. August Birkholz died in 1897. August H. Birkholz is one of the most substantial farmers of Middleville township. He was born in Germany, April 24, 1870, son of August Birkholz and grandson of Frederick Birkholz, both mentioned above. He was brought to Victor township, this county, when about ten years of age, and here grew to manhood. His opportunities for schooling were somewhat limited, but he has made up for this with sturdy intelligence and sound common sense. He was reared to farm pursuits, and remained at home until his marriage. He bought a place of eighty acres in section 29, Victor township, started developing it, and erected a log cabin. Into this cabin he brought his bride. They toiled together and achieved prosperity, one of their improvements on the place consisting of a frame house which they built onto their log house.



In 1899 they sold this place and moved to their present farm of 120 acres in section 20, Middleville township. Forty acres has since been added. At the time of the purchase a small frame house and barn had been erected. Mr. Birkholz has erected a splendid modern home, a sanitary barn 36 by 100 feet, equipped with a ventilator system, cement floor and running water, and other necessary outbuildings, and carries on general farming and stockraising. August H. Birkholz was married, September 24, 1891, to Augusta Browske, born March 4, 1872, in Woodland township, this county, daughter of Andrew and Gustina (Ziedler) Browske. Andrew Browske was born in Germany, and was there married. In 1872 he brought his wife and children to America, and located in Woodland township, in this county. Later he moved to Albion township. He died in 1882 at the age of fifty-five. She died in 1907 at the age of seventy-two. They had eight children: Caroline, Anna, Henrietta, Elizabeth, Wilhelmina and Christina, were born in Germany. Augusta and Charles were born in the United States. Mr. and Mrs. August H. Birkholz have ten children: Otelia, Alice, Paulina, Charles, Amelia, Emil, Eva, Arthur, Frances and Ione. All the children are at home except the oldest, Otelia. She married Emil Fiedler, of Albion township, and they have one child, Arnold. The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**Joseph R. Tomlinson**, for many years an honored and useful citizen of Middleville township, was born in what is now West Virginia, and was there reared and educated. In early life he came to Minnesota and took up farming in Carver county. It was in 1867 that he came to Wright county and bought forty acres in section 7, Middleville township. He cleared up this land, erected some good buildings, and became a representative citizen. In time he added forty acres to the east of his original tract, and on the farm of eighty acres thus created, he followed general farming and stock raising until his death, March 21, 1907. Joseph R. Tomlinson was married in Wright county, May 15, 1870, to Anna Dix, who was born in Illinois, November 20, 1848, and came to Wright county in 1867. She lives on the home farm, and is highly regarded throughout the community. The family faith is that of the Christian church. Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson have had nine children: Lucy, now Mrs. Edward Ferrell, of Middleville township; Mary Bernice, who lives with her mother; Cliffie May, now Mrs. James M. Battles, of Clear River, Minn.; Samantha Belle, now Mrs. Robert McClay, of Middleville township; Henry M., who died in infancy; Friend E., of Cokato; James D., of Middleville township; Marion D., of Middleville township; Joseph C. (deceased).

**Marion D. Tomlinson**, proprietor of the Highland Creamery, prominent business man, and expert butter-maker, was born

on his father's homestead in Middleville township, Wright county, July 27, 1885, son of Joseph and Anna (Dix) Tomlinson. He attended school in Maple Grove district, No. 51, and at the age of nineteen took up creamery work at Pleasant Hill in McLeod county. On October 1, 1907, he took charge of the Highland Creamery in section 12, Middleville township, then owned by his brother, F. E. Tomlinson. From there he went to Minneapolis, and became a clerk in the department store of the Leader Mercantile Co. May 1, 1911, he came back to Middleville township, bought the Highland Creamery from his brother, and took over the sole management. He has greatly increased its output, his business methods have appealed strongly to the farmers, and he is making an unusually strong success of the proposition. He is a high class butter-maker, and belongs to the Wright County Dairy Association. Mr. Tomlinson was married September 22, 1910, to Sophia Lind, born in Middletown township, daughter of Nels and Anna Lind, both now deceased. Mr. and Mrs. Tomlinson have two bright sons, Kenneth and Wesley.

**Nels Lind**, the pioneer, was born in Kjattbo, Sweden, December 22, 1861, son of Stor Per Nelson, a real estate dealer in Sweden. Nels Lind was reared in Sweden, and was there married December 22, 1886, to Anna Peterson, who was born July 9, 1867. Their oldest child, Gustave, was born in Sweden, July 25, 1887. In May, 1888, they arrived with this child, in Ironwood, Mich. In April, 1889, they located on forty acres in Middleville township. An old barn, and part of a frame house stood on the place, and two or three acres had been cleared. With a yoke of oxen, Nels Lind started clearing the place. He added two tracts of forty acres each, and by gradual improvements, brought his place to a high degree of development. He was on the town and school boards, and a director in the Farmers' Elevator at Waverly. His fraternal associations were with the Modern Brotherhood of America. He died July 5, 1905, and his wife January 26, 1910. The children born in America were: Sophia, born January 29, 1890; Oscar, born October 29, 1891; Signie, born September 25, 1893; Wallace and William, twins, born June 5, 1895; Amanda, born April 12, 1897; and August, born November 21, 1899.

**Bernard H. Prigge**, a wide-awake farmer of Middleville township, was born in Victor township, March 27, 1875, son of Henry and Dorothy ((Prohl) Prigge, who brought him to section 15, Middleville township, as a boy. He attended the district schools, was reared to farm pursuits, and has remained on the old homestead of 120 acres, which he now owns. He has made excellent improvements, among which may be mentioned a sightly barn, 32 by 80 feet, with cement floor, patent stanchions, and a modern ventilator system. He successfully carries on

general farming, and makes a specialty of raising good stock. He has always favored every move that has for its object the betterment of farm conditions, and has taken shares in the Howard Lake Creamery, the Howard Lake Telephone Co., and the Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co., of Middleville.

Mr. Prigge was married February 6, 1900, to Mary Mueller, born in Woodland township, the daughter of Henry and Augusta (Barth) Mueller. They have two daughters, Luella, born February 21, 1901; Dorothy, born February 14, 1909.

**Leander Watson**, a prominent citizen of Middleville township, was born in Marion, in what is now West Virginia, June 11, 1842, son of John C. and Orilla (Mason) Watson, grandson of William Watson, and grand-nephew of David Watson, a soldier in the Revolutionary War. John C. Watson was born in Marion county, Virginia, was there educated, reared and married, earning his livelihood as a stonemason and shoemaker. Three of his children, Elizabeth, Lucinda and Malissa died in what is now West Virginia. In 1865, with his wife, and his other children, Leander, Augustus, Jane, Susannah, John C., William, Alexander, Thornton and Rhoda he came by boat down the Ohio and up the Mississippi to St. Paul. From there they came to Minneapolis, and then by horse-team they came on to Montrose, in Wright county, where they remained for about a year. In 1866 he secured a tract of eighty acres in section 26, Cokato township. A trail led past the place. He erected a cabin of unhewed logs, and began to clear the place. He fortunately had a pair of oxen and three cows. In April, 1867, he moved his family onto the place. St. Anthony was then the trading point, and members of the family sometimes walked there after supplies. John C. Watson died in 1868, in the faith of the Baptist church. His wife died in 1866. From the old home the family has scattered far and wide, and the only one that remains there is John C., Jr., who successfully carries on general farming. Leander was reared in what is now West Virginia, and in December, 1862, when his part of the state refused to follow the rest of Virginia into the Confederacy, he enlisted in Company B, in a regiment of West Virginia Infantry, and served two years. He came to Wright county with other members of the family in 1865. In 1867 he acquired a tract of eighty acres in section 32, Middleville, just on the edge of the townsite of Smith Lake. Nothing had been cleared, and only a crude track led to the place. He erected a log cabin, and secured work on the railroad. In this capacity he helped to clear the right of way for the Great Northern from Delano to Montrose. This work gave him ready cash, and thus enabled him to pursue his farm operations. He cleared up the eighty acres, erected modern buildings, and developed a good farm.



A sightly feature of his place are the rows of maple and cottonwood trees, some of them three feet in diameter. These trees he set out as saplings in 1873. Mr. Watson has served as constable and as a member of the school board, and has been a member of a number of committees and delegations. Leander Watson was married July 22, 1864, to Minnie King, a native of Virginia, daughter of John King. She died in 1865 at the age of twenty, leaving one child, Raymond William, now living in Ohio. For his second wife he married Julia Martin, of Indiana, daughter of William Martin. This union resulted in three children, Mary, Hattie and Judson. The present Mrs. Watson was Lulu Stiles, a native of Wisconsin. Their happy marriage has been blessed with three children, Sidley, Gladys and Kenneth.

**Albert Zeidler**, an enterprising farmer of Middleville township, was born in Prussia, Germany, February 24, 1867, son of John Frederick and Rosine (Brandt) Zeidler, who brought him to Wright county in the summer of 1872. He was reared on the homestead in Middleville township, attended the district school, and thoroughly mastered farming. About 1899 he came into possession of the home place which he has since conducted. He successfully carries on general farming and stockraising, and is a very prominent man in the community. He has been chairman of the township board of supervisors seven years and township treasurer three years. For eighteen years he has been school officer of his district. He has taken an interest in the Howard Lake Co-operative Creamery and holds shares in that institution. The family faith is that of the German Lutheran church. Mr. Zeidler was married in 1901 to Mollie Drawert, who was born in Germany, and was brought to Victor township, at the age of one and a half years, by John and Gottlieba Drawert. Mr. and Mrs. Zeidler have five children, Hilda, Arthur, Esther, Florence and Agnes.

**John Frederick Zeidler**, an early settler of Middleville township, was born in Prussia, Germany, January 28, 1828, and was reared to farm pursuits. As a young man he married Rosine Brandt, who was born October 4, 1831. Eleven children, Charles, Carrie, August, Minnie, Albert, Otto and John were born. Two died in infancy and Henrietta, aged twenty, died in Germany. After reaching the United States, Otto died, and another son, Richard, was born. In 1872 the family set out for the United States and reached Howard Lake, in this county, August 16, 1872. For a year they rented land and then bought a tract of 107 acres in Middleville township. They moved into a log cabin that stood on the place. John F. Zeidler started to clear the land with the assistance of a yoke of oxen. In time he erected a modern dwelling, barn and other buildings, and brought the farm to a good stage of cultivation. He was espe-



cially active as a church member. When the first German Lutheran church in this locality was erected he helped haul the first timbers and assisted in constructing the building. Later he helped to organize the German Methodist church. He was one of the trustees, and in the absence of the regular preacher, helped to conduct the services. He died in 1909. His wife died October 7, 1883.

**Lewis Reinmuth**, now deceased, was one of the most respected citizens of Middleville, highly esteemed and honored, and his untimely death has not yet ceased to be mourned. He was born in Baden, Germany, January 20, 1852, son of George and Barbara (Banchbach) Reinmuth. George Reinmuth was born in Baden, Germany, in 1815. He married Barbara Banchbach, and in 1853, started with her and the children for the United States. The voyage across the ocean aboard the old sailing vessel consumed three months. For a time they lived at Pittsburgh, where George Reinmuth worked on a steamboat. In 1857 he set out with his family for Minnesota, going down the Ohio, and coming up the Mississippi by boat. At St. Paul he hired an ox team to take him and his family to Middleville township in Wright county. Here he located a homestead of 160 acres on the north banks of Howard lake, where he built his first log cabin, and started to clear the land. Fortunately he owned a yoke of oxen, but the roads were so bad that it was difficult to use them away from home, and he often brought flour from St. Paul on his shoulder. Money was scarce and he dug ginseng to get the money with which to pay the government price of \$1.25 for his land. After a few years, a second log cabin replaced the first, and in time a frame house in which members of the family still live, was erected. Mr. Reinmuth was a prominent man in his community and served several years as a member of the school board. He died at the age of eighty-two. His wife had died in 1868 at the age of forty-four. Lewis Reinmuth was brought to America by his parents in 1853, lived with them in Pittsburgh, and in 1857 was brought by them to Wright county. He assisted his father in clearing the land and early in life became widely noted as an expert wood-chopper. Even as a small boy he was regarded as a wonder with an axe, and the feats of strength and skill which he performed in this line were little short of marvelous. He grew to manhood on the home place, and always remained there. After he came into possession of it he made many improvements, and made it a modern farm in every particular. He was a very hard worker, took great pride in keeping the best of stock, and delighted in having everything in splendid order about the place. He did not mingle in public life, but was a faithful member of the German Lutheran church of Howard Lake. He was killed May 29,

1913. While he was unloading milk at the Howard Lake Creamery, his team of horses took fright and ran away. He was caught in the wheel and turned over and over, receiving injuries from which he died soon afterward in the office of Dr. E. Y. Chilton. Lewis Reinmuth was married in 1881, to Bertha Uecker, a native of Pomerania, Germany, born September 29, 1861, daughter of Otto and Caroline Uecker, who came from Germany in 1867 and located in Wisconsin. Mr. and Mrs. Reinmuth had eight children: Allen, Hilda, now Mrs. Frank Westphal, of Howard Lake; Mattie, wife of Claude Nissen, of South Shore, South Dakota; George, Otto (deceased), Helen, Marie and Lewis. Allen Reinmuth, the oldest son, was reared on the home farm, attended the district schools, and in 1913 was graduated from the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. He is a thorough believer in modern methods in farming and in co-operation among the farmers. He organized the North Howard Farmers' Club, and is its secretary. He is a member of the Farmers' Stock-Shipping Association. The farm consists of 128 acres conducted along the most scientific lines.

**William Lee Brumfield**, a leading farmer of Middleville township, was born on his father's homestead in section 10, November 11, 1875, son of William Henry and Nancy (Jordon) Brumfield. William Henry Brumfield was born in Carver county, Kentucky, March 3, 1821, and as a boy received but meagre opportunities. He married Nancy Jordon (born July 1, 1828), and located on a farm in his native state, where the children, Green, Hattie, Allie, James, George and Nan, were born. There were also three more children in the family, Mary, born in St. Paul, and Noah and William Lee born in Wright county. In 1871 the family set out for Minnesota. They reached St. Paul by steamboat, and came to Middleville township, where by trading a good pair of horses they obtained the homestead-rights to eighty acres of land. An old shack and a straw barn stood on the place, and about an acre had been broken. With the aid of an ox team the family cleared the land, and in time erected suitable buildings. Mr. Brumfield was a member of the Christian church and helped to build the church at Sylvan, in Middleville township. He died December 28, 1888. His wife died October 29, 1899, aged about seventy-one. William Lee Brumfield was reared on the home farm and attended the district schools. After the death of his father, he and his brother, James, took over the home place. Later William Lee bought his brother's interest. A few years later he sold out, and bought the place of his father-in-law, W. H. Hutchinson. This tract consisted of eighty acres. Four years afterward he bought the old Levi VanNorden place of 160 acres. This was in 1905.

The place was but partly improved, and the only residence on it was the homestead log cabin. Mr. Brumfield has developed the farm, and has erected a new nine-room house, a new silo, and several roomy sheds. He carries on general farming and raises good stock, marketing his cattle through the Stock Shippers' Association of which he is a member. At the present time he is supervisor of the township and clerk of the school board. He belongs to the Modern Brotherhood of America and to the Odd Fellows. Mr. Brumfield was married March 27, 1901, to Effie M. Hutchinson, daughter of W. H. Hutchinson and Helen A. (Dean) Hutchinson. Mr. and Mrs. Brumfield have three children: Russell, born March 24, 1904; Dorris, born September 8, 1908; and Evelyn, born September 22, 1911. W. H. Hutchinson came from Canada to the United States and then to Middleville township.

**Levi R. Bowman**, a well known resident of Middleville township, was born in Greensborough, Indiana, March 7, 1841, son of William W. and Elvira (Hunt) Bowman. William W. Bowman was of Scotch-Irish ancestry, and was of the Quaker faith. He was one of a family of six boys and two girls. About 1800 he moved from North Carolina to Indiana, and there spent the remainder of his life. He was a Whig, an Abolitionist and a Republican, and was a prominent man in his township. He died in 1868. By his first wife he had three children, Milton, Edmund and Martha. By his second marriage he had eight children, Calvin W., William, Jabez H. (a veteran of Company D, 36th Indiana Infantry), Levi R., Thomas E., Sarah, Emeline, and Beulah. Levi R. Bowman was born in Indiana as noted, was reared on the home farm, and attended the district schools. In 1861 he enlisted in Company F, 10th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was assigned to the Fourteenth Army Corps. He served in all three years, and was in many important skirmishes, battles, engagements, campaigns, marches and sieges. Among the battles may be mentioned those of Mills Spring, Corinth, Perrysville, Tellahoma, Chickamauga, Missionary Ridge, Atlanta, Racaca, Big Shanty, Kennesaw and Peach Tree Creek. He received his honorable discharge at Indianapolis, September 19, 1864. Then he took up carpenter work, an occupation in which he engaged until 1870, when ill health caused him to seek a home in another climate. In 1871 he located in Middleville, Wright county, and purchased Fred Peasley's homestead right to eighty acres in section 4. An unfinished log house stood on the place and into this house he moved with his wife and son, Elmer C. One acre of the tract had been cleared. He cleared up the eighty acres and bought forty acres on the east line of the farm which he also cleared. He has replaced the log structure with a substantial home, good barns has been erected,







M. E. FELLOWS AND FAMILY

and everything about the place bespeaks thrift and prosperity. Mr. Bowman carries on general farming and aside from this follows his trade as a builder, operating throughout the Northwest. He was married in Indiana to Clementine Nugent, born in that state in February, 1851, a daughter of Levi Nugent, a hotel man of Hamilton county, Indiana. She died in 1874, leaving him four children: Elmer C., William, Bert and Alvira. Elmer C. is assistant state wheat weigher, with headquarters in Minneapolis. Bert operates the home place. William and Alvira died in infancy. For his second wife, Mr. Bowman married Kate Plomteaux, a native of Blue Earth county, this state. She died at the age of fifty. Her two children, Elizabeth and Mary died in infancy.

**John R. Anderson**, a leading citizen of Middleville township, was born in Sweden, August 29, 1857, son of Andrew and Beata (Larson) Anderson, both of whom died in the old country. John R. was reared and educated in Sweden, and there lived until over twenty-two years of age. In 1880 he came to America, landing at Quebec, Canada, and finding his way to Minnesota. For the first summer he worked on a farm in Meeker county. In the fall he came to Wright county, and worked in the woods near Waverly. The following summer he did farm work in Kandiyohi county. In the winter he again chopped wood near Waverly. The next spring, 1882, he went to Canada, and worked about a year for the Canadian Pacific. Since then he has been engaged in farming in Wright county. He owns a good place in section 13, Middleville, and successfully carries on general farming and stockraising. He is the assessor of the township, and has been on the school board for six years. He helped to organize the Co-operative Store at Waverly, and is a director in that as well as in the Waverly Farmers' Elevator. In the Swedish Lutheran church he is especially prominent. He has been janitor for fourteen years, Sunday school teacher for seven years, and trustee for a considerable period. Mr. Anderson was married June 7, 1885, to Augusta Person, who was born in Sweden in 1860. They have ten children: Oscar, of St. Paul; Charles, of Waverly; Olga, wife of John Cochran, of Woodland township; August, at home; Ellen, now Mrs. Erick Erickson, of St. Paul; William, Henry and Esther, at home; and Arthur and Ruben, who died in infancy.

**Martin E. Fellows**, for many years an honored farmer of Monticello township, was born in Huron county, Ohio, May 2, 1852, son of William Stewart and Phoebe E. (Gifford) Fellows, the former a native of New York state, and the latter of Ohio, and both of Scottish descent. The mother died in Michigan. The father lived in Minnesota several years, and later moved to Kansas, where he died. In the family there were three children:

Martin E., Elnora, wife of Charles Harris, of Frazee, Minn.; and Levi L., of Olmsted county, Minnesota. Martin F. Fellows came to Rochester, Minn., from La Grange county, Indiana, in September, 1873. In December, 1902, he brought his family to Wright county and located on Sugar lake, in Corinna township, where he purchased 175 acres of land. Six years later he traded this tract and secured 120 acres on section 4, Monticello township, where he carried on general farming and stock raising. Mr. Fellows was a substantial man, and was an influential member of the school board at High Forest for nineteen years. His death was widely mourned, and his memory will long remain in the hearts of all those with whom he came in contact. He belonged to Monticello Lodge, No. 16, A. F. & A. M., the Eastern Star, the M. W. A., and the Knights of Pythias. He was made a Mason in High Forest Lodge, No. 85, in 1886, and was made master of Fair Haven Lodge, No. 182. His wife was a charter member of the Eastern Star, and was made worthy matron of Vesta Chapter, No. 99, O. E. S., in 1897. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Fellows was married, December 23, 1875, to Almeda E. Stillwell, a native of Wisconsin, daughter of Obediah and Mary E. (Faucett) Stillwell, the former a native of West Virginia and the latter of Indiana. The Stillwells came to Minnesota in 1857 and located in Mabel, Fillmore county, Minnesota. In the family there were four children: Americus V., who died November 10, 1912; Almeda, wife of Martin E. Fellows; Leslie H., of Stewartville, Minn.; and Eldevilla, wife of George Langton, of Browerville, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Fellows had five children: Mary Elizabeth, wife of Charles Meyers, of Bradley, S. D.; Blanche A., wife of Hiram Miller, of Park county, Mont.; Ethel O., wife of Richard Stryker, of Park county, Mont.; Elmer Leslie, of International Falls, Minn.; and Leonard A., at home. Martin E. Fellows died February 9, 1915, and Mrs. Fellows died February 26, 1915.

**David F. Reid**, business man, Monticello, was born in Fillmore county, Minnesota, May 27, 1865, son of David and Annie (Hoag) Reid, natives respectively of Ireland and Vermont, who came to Minnesota in 1857 and spent the remainder of their lives in Fillmore county, the father dying on April 25, 1881, and the mother in 1871. In the family there are three children living and six dead: Jane, wife of J. D. Henry, of Portland, Ore.; David F., and Annie M., wife of H. W. Sims, of Grand Forks, N. D., living; and James A., William E., Arthur, Judson, Lillie and one unnamed, deceased. David F. Reid received his education in the district schools, and devoted his early life to farming. In October, 1908, he came to Wright county and engaged in the farming and nursery business in Monticello township until 1913. In that year he started his present business. He is local agent



for the Standard Oil Company, does heavy draying, and deals in wood, coal, cement, brick and lime. Mr. Reid is a Republican in politics, and served for a time as town clerk. He belongs to the M. W. A. Mr. Reid was married, June 20, 1885, to Ella E. Rich, and they have six children: Floyd Albert, who is his father's partner; Grace, the wife of Albert Engel, of Todd county, Minnesota; Florence, the wife of Louis Engel, of Monticello; Nellie and Mildred, at home; and an unnamed boy who died in infancy.

**Andrew Thompson**, a venerable pioneer, now deceased, was born in Ireland, August 31, 1825, attended school, grew to manhood, and became a millwright and engineer. Hannah Riley was born in Ireland, January 21, 1831. They both came to America about 1850, and located in Pennsylvania, where they were married, May 5, 1852. From Pennsylvania they moved to Virginia, where Mr. Thompson operated a sawmill. In 1854 they came to what is now Minneapolis, and here he worked in the government mills. It was in February, 1855, that they moved onto a homestead in Hennepin county, just across the line from Wright county. The land was all wild and wooded with heavy timber. He cleared the land, erected a home and outbuildings, and underwent all the hardships and privations of pioneer life. As the years passed he became one of the most prosperous and influential citizens in the community. August 9, 1862, he enlisted as a private in Company B, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He was sent against the Indians, and on September 2, 1862, was wounded in the arm at the Battle of Birch Coulie. After that he was in the hospital for a time, and was then sent home for a furlough of five weeks. Later he went with his regiment to the South. In September, 1864, he was promoted to corporal, and on August 19, 1865, he received his honorable discharge. The remainder of his life was spent in developing and cultivating his farm in Hennepin county. He worked for the betterment of the community, and the world was the better for his having lived in it. He died November 4, 1903. His wife died August 24, 1908. The nine children of this venerable and honored couple were: Elizabeth, William James, Robert, Daniel R., Andrew, Samuel, John W., Julius A., and one, unnamed, that died in infancy. Elizabeth was born July 4, 1854, and died July 13 of the same year. William James, a business man of Monticello, was born October 31, 1855, was married March 25, 1879, to Etta Stimson, and has four children, Lethe, Celia, Raymond S. and Lydia. Robert was born December 2, 1857, and died August 29, 1864. Daniel R. was born May 26, 1860, and after being in business for some years, in Rockford, is now a wholesale dealer in undertakers' supplies in Minneapolis. He was married, December 16, 1884, to Kittie B. Beach, and they have three children: John B.,



Vernon A. and Gladys L. Andrew was born August 10, 1862, and died January 5, 1868. Samuel, a merchant of Rockford, was born June 28, 1866, and was married November 26, 1890, to Nellie M. Ewing. They have three children: Hector N., Gertrude and William E. John W. was born August 31, 1868, and now owns and conducts the home place of 160 acres. He is also in partnership with his brother in the store at Rockford. Julius A. was born October 25, 1870, and is now a prominent farmer of Buford, N. D. He was married, June 16, 1897, to Lettie M. Forsythe, and they have two children: Ruth W. and Kenneth.

**William J. Thompson**, Monticello, machinist and metal-worker, was born in Minneapolis, Minn., October 31, 1855, son of Andrew and Hannah (Ridley) Thompson, natives of Ireland, who came to America in 1850 and located in Pennsylvania. Andrew Thompson was a millwright and engineer. From Pennsylvania he moved to Virginia, where he operated a sawmill. In 1854 he came to what is now Minneapolis to operate the government mill. In 1855 he moved onto a homestead in Hennepin county, and there he and his good wife spent the remainder of their days. He was a veteran of the Indian campaign, having been wounded at Birch Coulee, where he was serving as sergeant in Company B, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. In the Thompson family there were nine children: An infant daughter (deceased), William J., Daniel R., of Minneapolis; John R. (deceased), Andrew (deceased), Samuel, of Rockford, this county; John, on the old home farm in Greenwood township, Hennepin county; Julius, of North Dakota, and an infant son (deceased). William J. Thompson remained with his father until nineteen years of age, working summers and attending school winters. He came to Monticello in 1875, worked for seven and a half years as a blacksmith, then opened a shop of his own, subsequently went to Minneapolis and worked in a blacksmith shop for about a year, then went on his father-in-law's farm in Monticello township and remained three years, and then came to Monticello again. After operating a shop about a year, he formed a partnership with Christian Neuman, and bought out the blacksmith shop of L. L. Chaffin. Three years later Mr. Thompson purchased his partner's interest and subsequently operated the shop alone until 1908, when he took his son, Raymond S., as full partner, under the firm name of W. J. Thompson & Son. The company does wagon repairing, automobile repairing and operates a general machine and blacksmith shop. Mr. Thompson is a public-spirited man, and has done his part toward the development of the community. Many of the trees which add so much to the value of the streets were set out by him many years ago. He was village recorder for some twenty years. Fraternally he associates with the A. F. & A. M., the I. O. O. F., the M. W. A.,

the C. of H. and the I. O. F. He is a Republican in politics. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Thompson was married, March 25, 1879, to Etta Stimson, a native of Monticello, this county, and they have four children: Lettie, wife of Bert V. Davis, of Monticello; Celia, bookkeeper and stenographer for her father and brother; Raymond S., his father's partner; and Lydia, at home, a bookkeeper for S. J. Mealey & Company.

**Raymond S. Thompson**, mechanical engineer, Monticello, was born in Monticello, May 11, 1885, son of William J. and Etta (Stimson) Thompson. He passed through the public schools of Monticello, and was graduated from the Monticello high school in 1904. With the exception of a short interval during which he was a salesman, he studied mechanical engineering at the University of Minnesota from the fall of 1904 until early in 1907. In February, 1907, he went to Spokane, Wash., as engineer for the Spokane, Portland & Seattle Railway. In June, 1908, he returned to Monticello and entered into partnership with his father in the general machine and repairing business under the firm name of W. J. Thompson & Son. Mr. Thompson has been unusually active in fraternal circles. He is a Scottish Rite and Mystic Shrine Mason, and has been secretary of Monticello Lodge, No. 16, A. F. & A. M. for two years. He has passed through the chairs of Garfield Lodge, No. 145, I. O. O. F., and has been its secretary for several years. He is also serving his second year as secretary of the Monticello Commercial Club. He is likewise secretary of the Monticello band. In politics Mr. Thompson is a Republican. Mr. Thompson was married, September 7, 1910, to Julia Lee, born in Howard county, Iowa, daughter of Gulick and Marie Lee, natives of Norway, the former of whom died October 24, 1913, and the latter of whom now lives in Cresco, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson have one child, Charles Leigh, born January 30, 1912. In the Lee family there were twelve children: Nellie, of Chicago; Bessie, wife of Dr. Ahern, of Ravinia, S. D.; Andrew, of Glasgow, Mont.; Julia, wife of Raymond S. Thompson; Gustave, of Cresco, Iowa; Mary, wife of Charles Gray, of Roscoe, Minn.; Olaf, of Alaska; Theodore, of Cresco, Iowa; and Ella, Anna, Emma and Arthur, at home.

**David A. Gehrenbeck**, business man, Monticello, was born in the city where he lives, August 12, 1880, son of Ellis and Mary J. (Mueller) Gehrenbeck, whose sketch appears elsewhere in this work. He remained with his father until about twenty years of age. After clerking in a general store for two years he entered the employ of J. W. Lindgren in a similar capacity. In 1910 he formed a partnership with John A. Roman. The firm has a hardware store and tinshop, installs heating systems, and does a general plumbing business. Mr. Gehrenbeck is a Repub-

lican in politics. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., the M. W. A., the Degree of Rebekah and the Court of Honor. Mr. Gehrenbeck was married, June 3, 1903, to Julia May Bertram, and they have two children: Gilbert B., born March 16, 1906, and Gladys, born August 29, 1907.

**Ellis Gehrenbeck**, carpenter, Monticello, was born in Indiana, January 7, 1857, son of Gottlieb and Matilda (Koeh) Gehrenbeck, natives of Saxony, Germany, who came to America in 1853, lived in Indiana twelve years, returned to Germany in 1865, and in 1870 came again to America, and took up their home on a farm in Wright county, Monticello township, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying in April, 1900, and the mother in November, 1892. In the family there were eleven children: Matilda, wife of Herman Blume, of Monticello; Azalia (deceased), Paulina, wife of Conrad Schamberg, of Monticello; ———, who died at Tacoma, Wash.; Gottlieb, who lives at St. Cloud, Minn.; Hermine, who died at Waterville, Minn.; Ada, wife of M. Mitchell, of Monticello; Ellis, of Monticello; Betty, married, of Monticello; Fred (deceased), and Amanda, wife of William Bailey, of Monticello. Mr. Gehrenbeck followed the fortunes of his family, and for many years operated the same home place with his brother. In 1901 he moved to the village of Monticello, where he has since devoted his time to his trade as a carpenter. He votes the Republican ticket and belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the M. W. A. The family faith is that of the Congregational church. Mr. Gehrenbeck was married, December 23, 1879, to Mary J. Mueller, daughter of Christian David and Caroline (Smith) Mueller, natives of Germany, who came to America and located in Ohio, later moving to Indiana. The father died at sea while en route to Germany for a visit, and the mother died at Cincinnati. In the family there were two children: William (deceased), and Mary J. Mr. and Mrs. Gehrenbeck have two children: David and Caroline.

**Henry A. Taft**, retired farmer, Monticello, was born in Howard county, Iowa, September 18, 1857, son of Alvin and Elizabeth (Lindsey) Taft, both natives of Michigan, who ended their days in Howard county, Iowa, the father on June 29, 1910, and the mother in July, 1912. There were two children in the family: Henry A. and Allie, the wife of J. J. House. Henry A. farmed with his parents, and at the age of twenty-one went to North Dakota, where he proved up on two claims and spent a year and a half. Then he returned to his home county. In 1896 he went to Chicago and entered the employ of the International Harvester Company. In 1900 he again went back to Howard county. In 1906 he came to Wright county and bought 166 acres of good land, on which he farmed until 1914, when he sold out and moved to the village of Monticello, where he now resides. He is a Repub-



lican in politics, and while in the township served in a number of local offices. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Taft was married, December 31, 1878, to Viola J. Webster, who died in 1912. By this union there is one son, Lyell W., of Monticello. For his second wife Mr. Taft married Mrs. Eveline Pasco, widow of S. M. Pasco, and daughter of Sheldon M. and Adelaide (Sales) Webster, natives of Indiana, who came to Iowa in 1896, and to Monticello township, Wright county, in 1906.

**Harry S. Whipple**, lawyer, Monticello, was born in Waterloo, Jefferson county, Wisconsin, July 19, 1877, son of Henry P. and Julia A. (Shaddock) Whipple, natives respectively of New York and Pennsylvania. The father, a veterinary surgeon, still makes his home in Wisconsin. The mother died June 23, 1902. In the family there were five children: Herbert A., of Waterloo, Wis., a salesman; Edwin O., of Waterloo; Jeanette C., of St. Paul; Harry S., of Monticello; and Laura G., wife of Charles R. Chadbourne, of St. Paul. Harry S. Whipple received his early education in the graded and high schools of his native town. He taught school four years, studied law in an office in Waterloo two years, and then came to Minnesota and entered the St. Paul College of Law, where, after a year's course he was graduated in June, 1904, and admitted to the bar. After two years' employment with the Great Northern Railway, he opened an office in Monticello in 1906, and has since been engaged in successful practice here. In politics he is an independent voter. His fraternal associations are with the Blue lodge of the Masons. He is now Worshipful Master of the local lodge. The family faith is that of the Protestant Episcopal church. Mr. Whipple married May E. Harley, a native of Beaver Dam, Wis., September 18, 1901. Their two children died in infancy.

**Fred Gee**, merchant and undertaker, Monticello, was born in Cortland, N. Y., April 18, 1857, son of Josephus and Sally (Granger) Gee, both natives of New York state, and both now deceased. Of their twelve children there are now living five: Lavinia, Eliza, Ida, George B. and Fred. Fred Gee came to Lyon county, Minnesota, and located on a farm in 1878. Four years later he returned to New York state and worked on the home farm nine years. Then he returned to Lyon county and operated a farm near Marshall for eight years. Then he came to Monticello and engaged in the furniture and undertaking business. His business is housed in a sightly building which he erected. Mr. Gee enjoys the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens. He has served as president of the Minnesota State Funeral Directors' Association. A Republican in politics, he has been elected mayor of the village, and has given the people a good administration. He is a member of the I. O. O. F. and of the



M. W. A. The family faith is that of the Baptist church. On May 4, 1881, Mr. Gee married Helen Canfield, a native of Minnesota. They have three children: Claire J., an undertaker, of Brookings, S. D.; Gertrude L., principal of the high school at Grandview, Wash., and Howard C., of Winnefred, Mont., an attorney.

**Joseph Merz**, Civil war veteran, prominent musician, and estimable citizen, was born in Baden, Germany, September 9, 1830, and there received his education, paying especial attention to music, for which he had a particular talent. In 1848 he came to America, and in 1856 found his way to Minnesota and located at Afton, in Washington county, where he worked in a mill. There he organized the first band and remained as its leader until 1861. In October, 1861, he enlisted in Company G, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, as musician, and served throughout the conflict. At Chattanooga he was captured. He was discharged at Ft. Snelling, and found his way to Wright county, where he bought a farm of 160 acres in Monticello township. After a long and useful agricultural career he sold his farm in 1902 and moved to the village of Monticello, where he died February 21, 1906. During all the years of his residence here he continued to be an enthusiastic musician. He organized the first band in Monticello and became its leader, a position in which he continued for many years. He was also much interested in the G. A. R., of which he was a prominent member. Joseph Merz was married, September 26, 1855, to Caroline Mast, who was born in Germany, December 25, 1838, came to America in 1847, and located in Illinois. She now resides in Monticello village, where she is highly respected and greatly admired for her many desirable qualities. Mr. and Mrs. Merz had four children: Amelia L., Elizabeth, William O. and Augusta. Amelia L. died at four years of age. Elizabeth is the wife of C. B. Maue, of Monticello, and they have seven children: Roy, Gussie, Florence, Daniel, George, Amelia and Leo. William O. lives in North Dakota. He married Helen Hortonbach, and they have four children: Joseph, Leo, Caroline and Hazel. Augusta died at the age of twelve years.

**Charles F. Merz**, auctioneer and contractor, Monticello, was born in Will county, Illinois, October 22, 1855, son of Frank J. and Elizabeth (Mast) Merz, natives respectively of Baden, Germany, and New Bavaria. The father came to America in 1844, located in Chicago, and lived to be ninety years of age. The mother still lives in Chicago at the age of eighty-five years. The children in the family were: Peter, Louisa, Frank (deceased), Charles F., August, Fredericka, Edward E., Elizabeth, Caroline, Richard, and George. Three died in infancy. Charles F. took up the burdens of life at the age of twelve years. For five years



CHARLES F. MERZ



he was on his grandfather's farm. Later he worked in a rolling mill at Joliet, Ill., and subsequently was employed four years as foreman on a stock farm in Franklin county, Iowa. In 1879 he came to Monticello, and farmed for three years. Then he went to Chicago, and was associated in the drug business with his brother for three years, after which he returned to Monticello where he has since been a successful auctioneer for some thirty years. He also does considerable business as a dredging and house-moving contractor. He is a Republican in politics, has served on the city council, and has been justice of the peace for some seven years. He belongs to the I. O. O. F. and the B. P. O. E. Mr. Merz was married February 16, 1881, to Florence M. McCord, a native of Pennsylvania, daughter of Evan B. and Sarah M. (Clark) McCord, natives of Pennsylvania, who settled in Maple Lake township, Wright county, in 1858. Mr. and Mrs. Merz have two sons, Edward H., born August 26, 1883, and Evan F., born October 11, 1889. These sons have a garage and automobile agency at Monticello.

**Allan Hale Pike**, station agent, Monticello, was born in Franklin county, Maine, April 7, 1852, son of Joshua and Dorothy (Houghton) Pike, both natives of Maine, who came to Minnesota in 1862, and located in Steele county, where they ended their days, the father, October 25, 1896, and the mother April 17, 1870. In the family there were eight children: Elias Gardner, of Glenwood, Minn.; Mary A., deceased; Judith E., wife of A. Haskill, of North Dakota; Thomas H., deceased; Allan Hale, of Monticello; Charles (deceased); Edgar, of Steele county, Minn.; and Sarah, wife of John L. Houghton, of North Dakota. Allan Hale Pike graduated from the high school at Owatonna, in 1871, and taught school for three years. Then he learned railroad telegraphy which he followed in various places for several years. In 1882 he came to Monticello as station agent, and here he has since made his home. He is one of the respected men in the community, belongs to the Masonic order, and votes the Republican ticket. Mr. Pike was married, August 26, 1884, to Mary A. Lewis, daughter of J. F. and Martha (Steele) Lewis, the pioneers. Mrs. Pike comes of a distinguished family, and is herself a well-known educator. She began teaching when she was fourteen years of age, graduated from the St. Cloud State Normal School, and has taught several terms in the county. Mr. and Mrs. Pike have one daughter, Hazel Torrey, now head of the Domestic Science department in the high school at Ontario, California. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Josiah F. Lewis**, a pioneer, Monticello, was born in Massachusetts, and came to Wright county, from Mississippi, about 1856. Later he returned to Mississippi, where for many years



he was a professor in a ladies' seminary. His wife, Martha Steele, a native of that state, was a teacher in the same institution. In 1865 they again came to Wright county and secured a farm. Although he devoted the remainder of his life to farming, he still maintained his interest in educational work. He taught in the Monticello High school, was principal of that institution, and for twelve years served as county superintendent of schools. He and his wife are both dead. Mr. and Mrs. Lewis had six children: J. H., Mattie J., R. S., Adelia Torrey, W. W. and Mary. John H. was born in Holly Springs, Miss., came to Minnesota in 1864, entered the University of Minnesota in 1872; was graduated in 1878, taught village schools in Wright and Hennepin counties for four years: was elected superintendent of schools of Hastings, Minn., in 1878, and served in that capacity until elected state superintendent of public instruction on the Democrat-People's ticket in 1899. He now owns and operates a ranch of 320 acres in California. Mattie J. is the wife of E. B. Preble, a judge on the supreme bench in the state of Washington. R. S., for eight years lieutenant-governor of North Dakota, is now a retired banker of Fargo. Adelia Torrey is the wife of W. O. Dobsen, mayor and Great Northern agent at Snohomish, Washington. W. W., formerly cashier of the Red River Valley Bank at Fargo is dead. Mary is the wife of Allan Hale Pike, station agent at Monticello.

**William A. Lippy**, harness-maker, Monticello, was born in Fulton county, Ill., November 10, 1860, son of John and Sarah (Zepp) Lippy, both now deceased. Of the thirteen children in the family, ten are now living. At the age of nineteen, Mr. Lippy became interested in the harness business, an occupation to which he has since devoted his life. In 1890 he came to Monticello, and entered the harness shop of Edward H. Sherwin, January 1, 1914, he took over the entire business. He is an excellent workman and has a good trade. He has a full line of harness and horse furnishing goods, trunks, suit cases and hand bags. Everything is of the best, and modern in every respect. He is an independent voter, and belongs to the A. F. & A. M. and the M. W. A. Mr. Lippy was married, November 28, 1892, to Julia Bower, a native of Germany, and they have three children: Orrie, wife of Lawrence Carr, of St. Paul; William A., who works with his father, and George J., who is at home.

**John A. Brasie**, insurance agent and real estate dealer, Monticello, was born in Peoria county, Illinois, June 29, 1847, son of Rowe and Hulda Ann (Bettis) Brasie, the pioneers, both natives of New York state. From Illinois he was taken to Ripon, Wis., and from there in 1854 he was brought to a farm near Monticello, where he spent his youth. As a boy he was associated with his brother, Henry S., in the mercantile business in Monticello.

In 1869 he and Henry S. started a hotel in the Lower Town. In 1870 he sold to his brother and went to Princeton, Minn., where he engaged in the mercantile business for two years. In 1872 he moved to Delano, Minn., and engaged in the mercantile business there for several years. Then he sold out to his brother, C. A. Brasie, and engaged in the insurance business. In May, 1894, he returned to Monticello, and here engaged in the insurance business. He also owns farm lands and does some dealing therein. The home which he has built in Monticello is one of the sightliest residences in the city. Mr. Brasie is a Democrat in politics, and attends the Episcopal church. On October 18, 1870, Mr. Brasie married Fannie Berry, a native of England, who after her father's death was brought to Wright county with the rest of the family by the mother. Mr. and Mrs. Brasie have two sons, Frank R. and Albert S. Frank R. is engaged in the auto-truck business in Minneapolis. He married Minnie McDonald, who died March 26, 1895, leaving a daughter, Muriel M., who is attending Stout's School of Domestic Science, at Menominee, Wis. Albert S. is a student in the University of Minnesota.

**Rowe Brasie**, pioneer, Monticello, was born in New York state in 1806, and served eight years in the regular army under General William Worth. In 1844 he went to Peoria county, Illinois, and farmed there for a few years, after which he went to Ripon, Wis., where he farmed and kept a hotel. In the fall of 1853 he came to Monticello, looked over the land, went back to Wisconsin, and in the spring of 1854 brought his family and located on a farm a mile west of Monticello. Later he went to Big Lake, in Sherburne county. Then he returned to Monticello, and remained until 1872, when he moved to Delano, in this county. Then he went to Litchfield, in Meeker county. He was a prominent man, and served as county commissioner and county treasurer in Sherburne county, and county commissioner of Wright county. Mr. Brasie died in 1896, his wife having passed away ten years earlier. They had four children: Henry S. (deceased); Worth W., of Denver, Colo.; John A., of Monticello; and Charles A., of Litchfield.

**Albert N. Mitchell**, retired farmer, Monticello, was born in Monroe, Waldo county, Maine, July 3, 1846, son of Alexander and Jerusha (Webber) Mitchell, natives of Maine, now deceased, who came to Monticello township, Wright county, and settled on a claim in 1856. In the family there were nine children: Frank (deceased), a veteran of the Civil war; Louise (deceased); Henry (deceased); Albert N.; Augustus (deceased); Laura, wife of William Chaffee, of Portland, Ore.; Freemont, of Monticello township, this county; Dora (deceased); and Edwin, of Monticello. Albert N. Mitchell was reared in Maine and in Minnesota.

As a boy he worked with a threshing outfit in the Black Hills of the Dakotas. In 1864 he enlisted in Co. E, Eleventh Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and did garrison duty to the end of the war, being mustered out at Nashville, Tenn. Then he took up farming. In 1866 he bought eighty acres of land in Monticello township, but soon sold this and for two years engaged in the milling business in Monticello. Then he went with a threshing outfit to the Black Hills once more and was there at the time of the Custer Massacre. Subsequently he worked in the pineries in northern Minnesota, and afterward took up farming in Monticello township, devoting every autumn to threshing. In 1900 he retired and moved to the village. Mr. Mitchell is a Republican and a member of the G. A. R. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Mitchell was married in June, 1884, to Freda G. Geiser, who died February 2, 1899. They have had five children: Grace, wife of James Mast, of Portland, Ore.; Lillian May, wife of Everett Walton, of Monticello; Frank, of Monticello; Laura, who keeps house for her father, and Gladys, who lives with her uncle, John Geiser, Jr.

**David N. Davis** was one of the honored pioneers of Wright county. With undaunted courage he brought his family into a thinly settled country where comforts were few, and by hard work, intelligent effort, and perseverance and integrity, he won for himself a competence, and achieved a place of honor, respect and leadership in the community where he lived for so many years. He reared a large family, which is a credit to the community, and to it he left the heritage of a blameless life and an unsullied name. Mr. Davis was born in England, and married Helen Bailey, a native of Canada. As a young man he located in Canada, and in 1858 he came to the United States and located in Monticello township, this county. He died in December, 1898, and since then, his widow, who has proved herself a devoted wife and loyal and affectionate mother, has made her home in Monticello village with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Starmer. Mr. and Mrs. Davis were the parents of fourteen children. Martha is dead. David W., a retired farmer of Monticello village, is the father of three children, Mortimer, Mary and Hazel, and the grandfather of one, David. Sadie is dead. Jennie is the wife of Charles Lord, of Monticello, and they have two children, Clarice and Effie, and three grandchildren, Etheleen, Babe and Erma. George Alfred is a Monticello farmer, and has two children, Freeman and Echo. Walter Isaac lives in Dundurn, Saskatchewan, Canada, and has one child, Wallace. Freeman is dead. Bert V. is a Monticello blacksmith, and has nine children, Viola, Lyle, Clifford, Brighton, Vera, Vernetta, Evelyn, David and Merrill. Ruby is the wife of Frank Drake of Minneapolis, and they have three children, Gerald, Helen and Ruth. Franklin W. lives



MR. AND MRS. DAVID N. DAVIS





in Hancock, Mich. Fredrick is a Monticello farmer. Irving S., of Long Beach, Cal., has one child, Melvin. Chester is dead. Dora E. is the wife of Roy Starmer, and they have one child, Marjorie.

**George Alfred Davis**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in the township where he still resides, March 21, 1864, son of David and Helen (Bailey) Davis, the former a native of England and the latter of Canada. The father died in 1900 and the mother still lives in Monticello. George Alfred Davis remained with his parents until twenty-five years of age. Then he bought eighty acres in Monticello, section 6. In 1911 he bought 144 acres in the same township, section 36, where he has erected a new house and made many improvements. He also owns 192 acres in sections 5 and 6, where he likewise has made many improvements. He is one of the best known dairymen in this part of the county, and in addition to his general farming, makes a specialty of thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Davis was married January 17, 1893, to Ina Rawn, a native of Denmark, and they have two children: Freeman E. and Echo V. The family faith is that of the Advent Church.

**Frank J. Shierts**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Wabasha county, Minnesota, February 19, 1864, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Rolen) Shierts, natives respectively of Bohemia and Germany, who came to America in 1854, located in Glasgow township, Wabasha county, this state, and there farmed until 1900, when they retired. They have lived to celebrate the Golden anniversary of their marriage, and are among the most respected people in their neighborhood. In their family there were eight children: Frank J.; Mary (deceased); Annie, wife of Henry Tushaus, of Wabasha county; Kate, wife of Theodore Peters, of Wabasha county; John and Joseph, of Wabasha county; Peter, of Helena, Mont.; and George, a postal clerk with headquarters at St. Paul. Frank J. remained with his parents until his marriage. Then he purchased 120 acres in Glasgow township, Wabasha county. In 1900 he purchased 120 acres in Monticello township, this county. He now owns 200 acres in sections 21 and 28, Monticello township. He has made many improvements and carries on general farming on a successful scale. He also does considerable threshing. He is a Republican in politics, is now town supervisor and has served for some years as clerk of the school board of his district. He is secretary of the Greenwood Telephone Company. Fraternally he is affiliated with the Catholic Order of Foresters and with the St. Joseph Society. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Shierts was married October 1, 1885, to Catherine Ziemetz, daughter of Nicholas and Margaret (Webber) Ziemetz, both natives of Germany. Mr. and Mrs. Shierts have had seven children: Nicholas

F., now assessor of Monticello township; Joseph (deceased); Elizabeth, wife of Octave Dechaine, of Otsego township, this county; and William, Thomas, Mary and Joseph, at home. Nicholas Ziemetz came to America as a young man, and after living for a while in Illinois, came to Minnesota in 1867 and located in Wabasha county, where he engaged in farming. He died in September, 1907, his wife having died in February of the same year. In the Ziemetz family there were eleven children: Mary, wife of William Meyer, of Wabasha county; John, of Salt Lake City; Thomas, of Wabasha county; Catherine, wife of Frank J. Shierts, of Wright county; Elizabeth (deceased); Charles (deceased); Elizabeth (deceased); Emma, of Wabasha county; George (deceased); Lucy, now Sister M. Boniface, of the Sisters of St. Joseph in the Seminary at St. Paul; and Margaret, wife of Joseph C. Schmidt, of Wabasha county.

**Conrad S. Stengelin**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in the township where he now resides, December 20, 1880, son of Jacob J. Stengelin and Bertha (Heydeck) Stengelin. He was reared to farm pursuits, attended the public schools, and has spent his whole life, thus far, on the farm. He is a Republican in politics, and has served as clerk of the school board of his district. Mr. Stengelin was married May 3, 1911, to Telie Lilja, a native of Iowa. They have one child, Eleanor Constance, born March 1, 1914. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Jacob J. Stengelin, Jr.**, proprietor of Fair View Farm, Monticello township, was born in the township where he now resides, September 17, 1876, son of Jacob J. and Bertha (Heydeck) Stengelin, natives of Germany, who came to America in the early sixties, and to Wright county about 1874, locating on a farm in Monticello. In the family there were five children: Louise, wife of Gustave Schmidt, of Irons, Mich.; Bertha (deceased); and Jacob J., Jr., Augusta and Conrad, of Monticello. Jacob J. Stengelin, Jr., remained on his father's farm until about thirty-three years of age. Then he bought eighty acres in sections 24 and 25, Monticello, where he carries on general farming and stockraising. The place is well improved and is modern in every respect. Mr. Stengelin is a Republican in politics. December 15, 1909, Mr. Stengelin married Elizabeth Hanson, daughter of Peter and Hannah Hanson. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Frank A. Townsend**, farmer and stockraiser, Monticello township, was born in Lake county, Illinois, December 27, 1857, son of John K. and Fidelia (Tower) Townsend, natives of New York state, who came to Wright county in 1902, and ended their days in Monticello. In their family there were six children: Frank A.; Carrie, wife of John Frost, of Monticello; Cora (deceased);

Ada (deceased); Wilber, of Monticello; and Emory, of St. Paul. Frank A. Townsend was taken from Illinois to Wisconsin and there lived about twenty-five years. Then he spent about five years in South Dakota, and some fifteen years in Martin county, Minnesota. In 1902 he bought 160 acres in section 6, Monticello township, where he has made some splendid improvements, and where he now carries on general farming and stock raising. He votes the Republican ticket, and the family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Townsend was married March 29, 1877, to Mary Meyers, a native of Pennsylvania. She was born July 14, 1857, daughter of Frank and Martha (Cole) Meyers. His father died November 19, 1898, and her mother now makes her home with her son, Frank A.

**Ernest Oby**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in Switzerland, April 29, 1875, son of Ulrich and Eliza (Marty) Oby, both natives of Switzerland, who came to America in 1889, lived in Green county, Wisconsin, for about seven years, then went to Mower county, Minnesota, for six years, and subsequently came to Wright county and located in section 22, Monticello township. The father died May 29, 1911, and the mother is now living in Monticello. In the family there were six children: Ernest; Eliza, the wife of George Lukens, of Taopi, Minn.; Herman, of LeRoy, Minn.; Walter, of Stratford, Wis.; Lena, wife of Roy Wetherbee, of Annandale; and Charles, a farmer of Maple Lake township. Ernest followed the wanderings of his family, and has remained on the home farm which he now conducts. He was educated in the public schools, learned farming from his father, and now takes excellent care of the 226 acres which comprise the family estate. He carries on general farming and makes a specialty of thoroughbred Holstein-Fresian cattle and full-blooded Chester White swine. He is a Republican in politics, and has done excellent service on the town board, a position in which he is now serving. The family faith is that of the Dutch Reformed church. Mr. Oby was married February 25, 1903, to Emma Wolf, and this union has been blessed with three children: Irene, born April 8, 1904; Roy Ernest, born December 6, 1906; and Lois, born September 10, 1909.

**John B. Peters**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Germany, August 18, 1853, son of Peter and Eliza (Howe) Peters, who spent the span of their years in Germany. In the family there were seven children: Anthony and Mary (deceased); Barbara, of Germany; Mathias and John, of Wabasha county, Minnesota; John B., of Monticello; and John W., of the state of Washington. John B. Peters came to America in 1872, and located in the county of Wabasha, this state. In 1896 he came to Monticello township, and purchased 160 acres in section 21, where he has since continued to live. He has a full line of im-



provements, sightly house, good barns, and well-kept stock. He is a Democrat in politics, and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Peters married Mary Leisen, a native of Germany, and they have seven children: Eliza and George F. are at home; Edward A. is a druggist at International Falls, Minn.; Eva is the wife of Edward Kleine, of Monticello; Agnes is a milliner at St. Thomas, N. D.; John and Frank are at home.

**Ira C. Murray**, dairyman, Monticello township, was born in section 6, on his father's homestead, where he still resides, January 28, 1888, son of William and Cynthia (Merrel) Murray. Ira C., the youngest of the family, showed unusual aptitude for farm work at a very early age. He attended the district schools and at the age of twelve took charge of the home place. At the age of nineteen he and his mother went west, and spent some seven months ranching in Colorado and California. Then, after a short trip to South Dakota, he returned to West Prairie, Monticello, and again took charge of the home place. He makes a specialty of dairying, and is the owner of the prize registered Holstein bull named Prince Aalje Sals Butter Boy. Mr. Murray is a Republican in politics and the family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**William Murray**, one of the early settlers of Wright county, was born in New Brunswick in 1836. In 1869 he came to Wright county, where he took a homestead of eighty-nine acres on West Prairie, section 6, Monticello township. He broke and cleared the land, erected his home and outbuildings and became one of the leading representative farmers of the county. On this farm he toiled early and late and thus acquired success. He took an active interest in the welfare and upbuilding of the community and his death, April 30, 1907, was greatly mourned. On July 4, 1867, he was united in marriage to Cynthia Merrel, who was born in New York state in 1847 and came to Wright county with her husband in 1869. She has proved a faithful helpmate to her cherished husband and is loyal to her friends and church. She still resides on the old home farm with her son, Ira C. In the family there were eight children: Lester W., of Monticello; Edith, now Mrs. Edward D. Kemp, of Paonia, Cal.; Anna May (deceased); Sarah (deceased); Lottie (deceased); Nettie, now Mrs. Sherman Van Nest, of Los Angeles, Cal.; Robert (deceased); and Ira C.

**Asa M. Perkins**, stockraiser and farmer, Monticello township, was born in Morris, Ill., September 16, 1852, son of Joseph and Roxana (Baldwin) Perkins, natives of Massachusetts, who came to Wright county in 1854, brought their family in 1855, and located in Monticello township. The father died September 6, 1906, and the mother March 4, 1894. In the family there were



MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM MURRAY



four children: Waldo (deceased); Asa M.; Eda, widow of J. S. Day, of Raymond, Minn.; and Abbie, the wife of A. D. Lewis, of Everett, Wash. Asa M. Perkins spent his youth on the home farm, passed through the district schools, and took courses at the University of Minnesota. In 1874 he went to Kandiyohi county and took a claim, where he remained four years. In 1882 he bought eighty acres in section 35, Monticello township. He now owns 295 acres, has put in a full line of improvements, carries on general farming, and makes a specialty of swine raising. He is well known as a successful educator, having taught school some twenty winters in the schools of this county. He is independent in politics, and has been town supervisor, as well as serving in minor offices, and has been a member of the school board for many years. He is a popular member of the M. W. A. Mr. Perkins was married, July 10, 1879, to Florence Bucklin, a native of Rockford township, this county, daughter of Alby and Rebecca (Leeper) Bucklin, natives respectively of Michigan and Indiana, who located in Rockford township in the early fifties and were there during the Wright County war. Mr. Bucklin died in 1895 and his wife in 1861. In their family there were five children: George, of Minneapolis; Charles, of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada; Udois (deceased); Ernest (deceased); and Florence, the wife of Asa M. Perkins. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins have had eleven children: Eda (deceased); Alby, of North Dakota; Bert, at home; Lottie, wife of John Larson, of Minneapolis; Frank, at home; Charles (deceased); Carrie, Viola and Della, at home; and Florence and Edward (deceased).

**John A. Lindgren**, general merchant, Monticello, was born in Sweden, April 14, 1873, son of John A. and Bertha Lindgren, who brought their family to America in 1879, and located in Silver Creek, this county, where they took a claim and followed general farming. After the death of the father, the mother married A. Hero. The children in the Lindgren family were: John A.; Andrew G., a school professor at Echo, Minn.; Christina (deceased); Bertha, wife of C. P. Weston, of Silver Creek; Hilma, of Portland, Ore.; Helen, now Mrs. Harry Klemz; and Albert, of Stanton, Minn. John A. Lindgren, the subject of this mention, remained on the home farm until he was about twenty years of age. For two years he clerked in a store in Minneapolis. Then for four years he traveled for the Jewell Nursery, of Lake City, Minn. At the end of this period he took a course in the St. Cloud State Normal school. Subsequently he became interested in the mercantile business in Monticello. In June, 1901, he entered into partnership with Joseph and John Roman, under the firm name of Lindgren & Roman Bros., in a general mercantile store. January 1, 1910, Mr. Lindgren took over the entire business. He has been successful and is one of the substantial men



of the community. He is a Republican in politics, and a member of the I. O. O. F. Mr. Lindgren was married December 28, 1899, to Mary Louise Roman, a native of Big Lake, Minn.

**John Geiser**, farmer, Monticello, was born in Switzerland, December 14, 1868, son of John and Albertine (Ambuhl) Geiser, natives of Switzerland who came to America in 1870, and located in section 20, Monticello township, where in time they acquired 100 acres. The father died in August, 1906, and the mother in February, 1908. They were members of the Evangelical Lutheran church. John Geiser, by his first wife, had four children: Eliza, wife of Charles Boerner, of Duluth, Minn.; Rosa, wife of Andrew J. Covart (deceased); Robert, of Seattle, Wash., married to Nettie M. Mitchell; and Mary, wife of William Campbell, of Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. By his second wife he had nine children: Freda, deceased wife of Albert N. Mitchell; John; Anna, wife of William Cooley, of Morris, Minn.; Emma, wife of F. N. Wilson, of Mountain Top, Ark.; Matilda, who is at home; Rudolph, superintendent of schools, Cannon Falls, Minn.; Janette, wife of P. C. Deming, of Minneapolis, Minn.; Helen, wife of M. S. Mallough, of Wimbledon, N. D.; and Albert, of Winnipeg. John Geiser attended the public schools, learned agricultural pursuits from his father, and as he grew to manhood took charge of the home place, which he still conducts. He has made many improvements, and has been very successful in carrying on general farming and stockraising. He is interested in the progress of the community and has done good service on the school board for some five years. In politics he is a Republican. A niece, Gladys E. Mitchell, makes her home with her relatives on the home place.

**Archie H. Moores**, farmer, Monticello, was born at Big Lake, Sherburne county, Minnesota, October 24, 1880, son of William and Lillian (Robinson) Moores, both natives of Minnesota, and still residents of Big Lake. In the family there were nine children: George, of Big Lake; Eva, wife of John Pearson, of Big Lake; Archie H.; William, of North Dakota; Cora, wife of Roy Gulliford, of Big Lake; David (deceased); Hattie, wife of Alfred Benson, of Minneapolis; Allan (deceased), and Guy (deceased). Archie H. remained at home until attaining his majority, having in the meantime attained a good public school education, and worked on the farm with his father. For a while he worked in the northern forests and for a time engaged in the ice business at Big Lake. In 1903 he came to Wright county, and bought eighty acres on section 30. Later he added twenty acres more. He now has a good place, and carries on general farming and stock raising. In politics he is independent. Fraternally he associates with the Maccabees. Mr. Moores was married May 31, 1903, to Emma Norrell, born in Minnesota, daughter of John and Emma (Wall) Norrell, the latter of whom died in 1891 and

the former of whom lives with the subject of this sketch. Mr. and Mrs. Moores have four children: Harvey C., Dorothy J. E., Melvin N. and a boy who died in infancy.

**Alexander Mitchell**, pioneer, Monticello township, was born in Maine, November 16, 1808. In the fall of 1854 he went to Illinois, where he remained until the spring of 1855, when he came to Monticello township and located on section 16, Monticello township. In 1862 he sold this farm and bought another in section 10, where he spent the remainder of his days. He was married November 2, 1856, to Jerusha Webber, and they had nine children: Frank, Henry A. and Anna, who are dead; Albert N., of Monticello; Augustus, who is dead; Laura, wife of F. J. Wakefield, of Washington; Dora, who is dead; Edwin, of Monticello; and Charles Fremont, of Monticello.

**Charles Fremont Mitchell**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in the township where he still resides, January 9, 1858, son of Alexander and Jerusha (Webber) Mitchell, the pioneers. He was reared to farm pursuits, and in 1886 purchased his present farm of 160 acres in sections 18 and 19. He has brought the place to a high degree of cultivation and carries on general farming, having a fine dwelling and a good set of outbuildings. During the past ten seasons he has devoted considerable attention to threshing. Mr. Mitchell is a Republican in politics. He has been supervisor for five years and assessor for two years and has also served in minor offices. He belongs to the M. W. A. Mr. Mitchell was married, November 17, 1872, to Adelhiel Geherenbeck, a native of Germany, and they have had eight children: Fremont, of Monticello; William, of Todd county, Minnesota; Bertha, at home; Lottie, at home; Alice Le Roy (deceased); Fred (deceased) and James (deceased).

**Frank L. Hanson**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in the township where he still lives, February 22, 1882, son of Peter and Hannah (Silk) Hanson, natives of Denmark, who came to America about 1872, lived awhile in Steele county, in this state, and then came to Wright county. The father died in April, 1892, and the mother now lives in Monticello. In the family there were six children: Sophia (deceased); Frank (deceased); Mary, wife of Albert James, of Monticello; Frank L.; Rose, at home; and Elizabeth, wife of Jacob Stengelin, of Monticello. Mr. Hanson has devoted his life to farming. He operates the home place in section 32, which he has named "Meadow Lawn," and in addition to this he owns and operates seventy-one acres in section 24. In politics he is a Democrat. Mr. Hanson was married, June 18, 1903, to Elizabeth Sutherland, daughter of Edwin and Margaret Sutherland, and they have one son, Albert Clayton. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Albert B. James**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in the Province of Quebec, Canada, April 12, 1862, son of Edward and Jane (Kinch) James, the former a native of Canada and the latter of Ireland, who came to Minnesota in 1869, located at St. Paul, came to Wright county in 1871 and located near Howard Lake, came to Monticello township about 1875, and here lived until the death of the mother in October, 1909, after which the father moved to the village of Monticello, where he died October 13, 1913. In their family there were seven children: Sarah, wife of Gilbert Middah, of Buffalo; William, of North Dakota; Albert, Elizabeth (deceased); Mary of Monticello; Isaac, of Annandale; and Henry, of Buffalo township. Albert B. James remained with his parents until about thirty years of age. At that time he bought 192 acres in sections 25 and 36, Monticello township, where he now has one of the best farms in the town. He successfully carries on general farming and stock raising, and is one of the leading men of his community. He is an independent voter and the family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. James was married, January 1, 1896, to Mary Hanson, daughter of Peter Hanson, a sketch of whose family appears elsewhere in this work.

**Albert Katilinek**, farmer and veteran of the Civil war, Monticello, was born in Bohemia, April 23, 1836, son of John and Lydia Katilinek, also natives of Bohemia, who came to America about 1846, and located in Cook county, Illinois, where they spent nearly all the remainder of their lives, dying, however, at the home of their son in Wright county. They were the parents of four children: Mary (deceased); John (deceased); Joseph, of Cook county, Illinois, and Albert. Albert Katilinek remained with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. Then he went to Iowa for about a year, and then to Pike's Peak, Colo., after which he returned to Illinois. There he enlisted in Company G, Thirty-Ninth Illinois Volunteer Infantry, serving four years and eight months. To recapitulate the story of the campaigns, skirmishes, marches and battles in which he engaged would be to repeat the well-known story of that famous regiment. It is sufficient to say that he was a good soldier and never failed in his duties. He was wounded in South Carolina. After he was mustered out at Springfield, he worked in Chicago about two years. Then he came to Wright county, and located at Maple Lake. Later he sold this and purchased 314 acres in sections 28 and 29, Monticello township, where he now carries on general farming and stockraising. The place is well improved and constitutes one of the best farms in the neighborhood. Mr. Katilinek is an active member of the G. A. R. He has been town supervisor at various times and has also served in minor offices. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Katilinek



MR. AND MRS. ALBERT KATILINEK





was married, for his first wife, to Mary Hudek, and by this union there were five children: Edward, of Monticello township; William, at home; Emma, wife of J. F. Hammer, of Angel Island, Cal.; and twins, who died in infancy. For his second wife he married Rosa Cech, a native of Bohemia, who came to America in 1861 and settled in Woodland township. The service took place November 21, 1882. To this union there were born four children: Frank, of Monticello township; George, Mary and Clarence, at home.

**August Klatt**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Germany, July 10, 1860, son of Carl and Augusta Klatt, who spent the span of their years in Germany. In the family there were six children: Minnie, August, Franz, Matilda, Carl and Julius. August Klatt started life for himself at the age of fourteen, and has devoted his years to farming. He came to America in 1893 and located on a farm near Buffalo, in this county. In 1897 he came to Monticello and purchased 140 acres in sections 28 and 29. He has made many improvements and has an excellent place. He is a Republican in politics and has served five years on the school board. Mr. Klatt was married, October 4, 1885, to Augusta Martweick, a native of Germany, and they have had nine children: Otto, of Monticello; Martha, wife of August Grelling, of Buffalo township, this county; and Fred, Leone, Gladys, Holbert, Leo, Henry, at home; and Lena (deceased). The family faith is that of the Lutheran church.

**William H. Fyten**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Holland, October 20, 1861, son of John H. and Marguerite (Mertens) Fyten, natives of Holland, who came to America in 1872 and located in Minneapolis, where the former, who was a stonemason, died May 10, 1877, and the latter in 1904. In their family there were eight children: Anna, wife of L. Geris, of Douglas county; John (deceased); William H.; Catherine (deceased); Theodore (deceased); Nellie (deceased); Lena, wife of William Smith, of Minneapolis; Christian (deceased). As a young man, William H. was interested in the mercantile business in Minneapolis, which he followed until 1893. Then he came to Wright county and purchased the following year eighty acres in section 33, Monticello township, where he has since carried on general farming and stock raising. The place is well improved and the home is a sightly one. Mr. Fyten is an independent voter. He is a member of the German Catholic Benevolent Society. Mr. Fyten was married, February 13, 1884, to Mary Jasper, a native of Carver county, Minnesota. To this union have been born twelve children: Frank and John, of Minneapolis; Mary, wife of Martin Robeck, of Monticello; and William, Anna, Matilda, Rudolph, Marguerite, George, Walter, Clarence and Mary Inez, at home. The family faith is that of the German Catholic church.

**Lindsay C. Goetzke**, farmer and stock raiser, of Monticello township, was born in St. Paul, Minn., September 3, 1869, son of Fred G. and Emily (Gauger) Goetzke, natives of Germany, who came to America in 1864 and located on a farm near St. Paul, where the mother died in 1875, and the father January 14, 1912. In the family there were six children: August, of Dakota county, Minnesota; a boy and girl who died in infancy; William, of St. Paul; Annie, widow of William Boesel, of White Bear Lake, Minn., and Lindsay C. For second wife the father married Johanna Post, and to that union there was born one child, Mary, wife of Otto Keihl, of New Canada, Minn. After attaining his majority, Lindsay C. operated his father's farm for a while and then went to the city of St. Paul. Then he farmed in Wisconsin three years and on a place near St. Paul two years. In 1902 he came to Wright county and bought 162 acres in section 34, Monticello township, where he has since carried on general farming and stock raising. He has an unusually fine herd of cattle and is one of the successful dairymen of the community. He is an independent voter, and the family faith is that of the Lutheran church. Mr. Goetzke was married, November 16, 1892, to Louisa M. Bahls, a native of Minnesota, of German descent. They have five children: Harry J., Leroy A., Elsie M., Wesley F. and Hazel N.

**William M. Johnson**, farmer, Monticello, was born in Illinois, October 7, 1871, son of Peter X. and Bettie (Swanson) Johnson, natives of Sweden, who came to America about 1870, lived a while in Illinois, then went to Iowa, and in 1901 came to Wright county, where they purchased 120 acres in section 21, Monticello township. The father died in February 28, 1908, and the mother still makes her home on the farm. In the family there were six children: Swan (deceased); William M.; Emily, of Monticello; Minnie, the wife of Fred Edquist, of Minneapolis; Amanda, wife of Charles J. Anderson, who works on the home place; and Luther E. William M. Johnson remained with his parents until about twenty-one years of age. Then he bought 100 acres near the village of Stanton, Iowa. Later he sold this and followed his trade as a painter. Subsequently, however, in 1903, he bought eighty acres near the home place. Near the village of Monticello. He has made many improvements, and carries on general farming and stock raising. In politics he is a Republican, and the family faith is that of the Swedish Mission church. Mr. Johnson was married, in Stanton, Iowa, October 13, 1899, to Amanda Larson, a native of Sweden. Their only child, a son, Earl William, died in infancy. He was born June 26, 1901. Amanda Larson was born in Helsingborg, Sweden, May 21, 1880, and came to America in 1896.

**Luther A. Johnson**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello, was born in Montgomery county, Iowa, July 16, 1880, son of Peter X. and Bettie (Swanson) Johnson, who are appropriately mentioned elsewhere in this work. After learning the harness-making trade, he opened a shop in Braham, Minn. In 1905 he took up a homestead in Midland, S. D. In 1907 he returned to Wright county and operated the home place in Monticello three years. Then he bought forty acres. Later he bought another forty. He carries on general farming and stock raising, and the land is well improved. Mr. Johnson is a Republican in politics. He attends the Swedish Lutheran church.

**Peter Lindbom**, farmer, Monticello, was born in Sweden, July 29, 1855, son of Carl and Brita (Peterson) Lindbom, both natives of Sweden, where both ended their days. In the family there were three children: Peter, Erick and Anna. Erick lives in Sweden. Anna is dead. Peter Lindbom came to America at the age of twenty-four, and with headquarters at Tracy, Minn., worked on the railroad. In 1882 he took up his residence in Minneapolis, and the next twenty years were spent in railroad work and in following his trade as a carpenter. In 1902 he came to Wright county, and secured forty acres in section 19, where he has since continued to live. He cleared the land, erected the buildings, and now has a good, comfortable place in every respect. He carries on general farming and stock raising. In politics he is an independent voter. Mr. Lindbom was married, May 30, 1891, to Augusta J. Nelson, a native of Sweden, now deceased. They have two children: Carl Albert, born May 7, 1892, and Ellen Josephine, born May 22, 1895.

**Sylvester Fyle**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in France, March 30, 1855, son of Brazile and Mary (Barber) Fyle, natives of France, who came to America in 1856, lived in New York state a while, and then went to Michigan for five years. In the meantime Brazile Fyle had served three years as a private during the Civil war. In 1870 they came to Minnesota, and in 1872 located on a farm in Monticello, where he farmed and carried on his trade as a stonemason. In the family there were seven children: A boy who died in infancy; Joseph (deceased), for several years an engineer on the Great Northern; Mary (deceased), the wife of Frank Montreuil; Sylvester; Brasile (deceased); Jamy, wife of John Crunholtz, of Medicine Lake, Minn., and Josephine (deceased). Sylvester Fyle lived at home with his parents until twenty-three years of age. Then he rented a farm for a while. Subsequently he went to Shakopee for two years. Later he returned to Monticello and purchased eighty acres. He was successful in his operations, and in time acquired 190 acres. Of late years, however, he has presented various tracts to his children, so that he now owns seventy-five acres on



section 28, Monticello, where he conducts general farming. He has made many improvements and has a good place. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Fyle was married, January 20, 1876, to Kate Miller, a native of Illinois, but of German descent. To this union have been born seven children: Sylvester B. (deceased); John, of St. Michael, this state; Thomas, of Monticello township; Rose (deceased); Jacob, of Albertville, this state; and Mary and Kate, who are at home. The family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**William D. Hamlet**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Brownville, Me., August 8, 1857, son of Joseph B. and Charlotte M. (Snow) Hamlet. Joseph B. Hamlet was born in Maine, was there reared, and during the Civil war enlisted in the Eleventh Maine Pioneer Corps. He served a year and a half, and was then discharged, having been injured while engaged in building bridges. He brought his family to Wright county in 1864 and took up farming in Otsego township. He was postmaster at Lily Pond for some years. He was also justice of the peace. Having gained a considerable knowledge of medicine, he ministered to the ailments of the children in the neighborhood, and was very successful in his treatments. He died in 1900. His wife died in 1911. In the family there were six children: Flora (deceased); Lewis B.; Aroline F., wife of Luther Davis, of Drain, Ore.; Flarilla, who died in childhood; William D.; and Helen Amanda, wife of William W. Heath, of Snohomish, Wash. William D. Hamlet remained on the home place until about twenty-six years of age. Then he bought forty acres in Monticello township and started farming on his own account. In 1881 he bought forty acres in section 16, in the same township. He has brought the place to a high stage of cultivation, and successfully carries on general farming. He is a Republican in politics, and has served the town as supervisor some twelve years. It is interesting to note that Tilston Snow, grandfather of William D. Hamlet, was one of the first settlers to cross the Mississippi river into Wright county. He came in 1858 from Maine and settled in Otsego township. Mr. Hamlet was married August 30, 1884, to Della Baker, a native of Iowa, daughter of Caleb Fulton and Emeline (Stevens) Baker, who brought her to Wright county when she was one year of age, and settled in Otsego township, where Baker's Ferry is named for them. In the Baker family there were six children: William Hovey, of Washington; Newell (deceased), Nettie, wife of Frank Heath, of Beach, N. D.; Nathan, of Otsego township; Della, wife of William D. Hamlet.

**Henry N. James**, farmer, Monticello, was born in St. Paul, Minn., August 28, 1871, son of Edward and Jane (Kinch) James, who brought him to Howard Lake, this county, as an infant, and to Monticello township as a small boy. He remained on the



HENRY JAMES AND FAMILY



home farm as a young man and thoroughly mastered the arts of agriculture. In 1901 he purchased 160 acres in sections 32 and 33, Monticello township, and to this he has added until he now owns and cultivates 360 acres, lying in Monticello township. He has one of the best farms in the community, equipped with excellent improvements and conducted in a modern way. On this place he successfully carries on general farming and stock raising. In politics Mr. James is an independent voter, and he has been too busy with his farm work to mingle to any extent in public affairs. Mr. James was married, September 29, 1896, to Eva Schultz, who was born in Wright county, August 11, 1879, and to this union six children have been born: Enfred Robert, born March 5, 1898; Amy Jane, born December 8, 1899; Edward Nathaniel, born January 29, 1903; Archie Ray, born July 14, 1904; Ada May, born May 31, 1908; Mark Henry, born August 24, 1914.

**George E. Desmond**, stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in Maine, December 12, 1852, son of Timothy and Mary (Finn) Desmond, who are elsewhere appropriately mentioned in this work. George E. Desmond was brought to Wright county by his parents in 1856 and was reared to agricultural pursuits. In 1889 he went to Bayfield county, Wisconsin, and secured a timber claim of 160 acres, which he developed until 1904, when he returned to his home place. This place of 160 acres, in section 30, Monticello township, was deeded to him upon the death of his parents, and here he is engaged in stock raising on an extensive scale. He has added to the original tract until he owns 480 acres of well improved land, his farm being one of the best in the township. Mr. Desmond has been too busy to seek public offices. He votes the Democratic ticket. He has made a decided success of life, and stands very high in the community as a man of ability and worth. He belongs to the Catholic church.

**Matt Dechane**, farmer, Monticello township, was born near St. John, Canada, November 24, 1867, son of Severe and Bridget (Maurier) Dechane, natives of Canada, who came to Otsego township, Wright county, in 1872, and here devoted their years to farming. The father died in August, 1908, and the mother still makes her home in Otsego township. In the family there were sixteen children: Alice, wife of Joseph Cowett, of Dayton; George, of Rush City, Minn.; Matt, of Monticello; Alfred (deceased); Lyda, wife of George Menard, of Albertville, Minn.; Joseph, of Anoka, Minn.; Louis (deceased); Mary, wife of George DeMars, of Otsego township; an infant daughter (deceased); Lucy, wife of Frank Zahler, of St. Michaels, Wright county; Octave, of Otsego; Emile (deceased); Edmund, Albert and Louis, of Otsego township; and Flora, the wife of Alphonse Chroinard. Matt Dechane remained with his father until he was twenty-eight



years of age. Then he married and in 1895 purchased forty acres in section 33, Monticello township. He has made some excellent improvements and carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a Republican in politics and a member of the Modern Woodmen of America. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. Mr. Dechane married Queenie Mary Montreuil, a native of Wright county, daughter of Frank and Mary (Fyle) Montreuil, natives of Canada, who came to Monticello about 1874. Mr. Montreuil now lives in Olivia, Minn. He was assessor of Monticello township for three years. His wife died August 10, 1908. In the family there were five children: Mary Louise (deceased), Queenie Mary, Elmer Francis, Francis Xavier and Haydee Catherine, wife of Edward Lindquist, of Olivia, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Dechane have two daughters: Hazel Mary, born June 9, 1908; and Blanche Florence, born October 5, 1910.

**Fred Ekberg**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Sweden, June 12, 1854, son of John and Caroline Ekberg, both natives of Sweden. He came to America in 1887 and located in North Dakota. Later he went to Washington. There, in 1889, he was in a serious railroad wreck on the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1892 he bought forty acres in section 17, Monticello township, where he now carries on general farming. He has a well-improved place, and the condition of the buildings and fences bespeaks the care and thrift of the owner. Mr. Ekberg was married in Sweden, in 1879, to Charlotte Olson, and to this union there have been born six children: Gustaf E., of Wisconsin; Hilda, wife of Godfrey Hawkinson, of Minneapolis; Esther, of Minneapolis; and Fred, Helga and Herbert, who are at home. The family faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church.

**Herman Blume**, one of the most substantial and respected citizens of Monticello, was born in Westphalia, Germany, November 16, 1833. He there received a splendid training, passing through the lower and the high schools, mastering the trades of machinist and engineer, and serving three years in the First Horse Battery, Garde Corps, Berlin, of the Prussian army. It was in 1858 that he came to America, located in Cincinnati, and secured employment in his uncle's factory across the river in Covington, Ky. In 1861 he enlisted from Cincinnati as sergeant in the Fourth Ohio Independent Battery, and by reenlistment at Woodville, Ala., in 1863, served until the close of the war, being honorably discharged with the rank of first lieutenant. His war career was an heroic and thrilling one. At the Battle of Lookout Mountain he had the misfortune to lose his left eye. At the Battle of Jonesboro, his horse, being shot dead beneath him, fell in such a manner as to inflict permanent injury to the gallant warrior's left knee, causing a life-long lameness. After the war the young lieutenant



HERMAN BLUME AND FAMILY



went to St. Louis and became engineer in a candle factory. It was in 1868 that he came to Wright county and secured employment as engineer in the sawmill of Fred Hitten, at Monticello. Two years later he moved onto a farm of eighty acres in Maple Lake township which he had bought about a year earlier. This tract was at that time covered with heavy timber. He erected a frame house, broke, grubbed and cleared the land, developed a splendid place, and continued as a prosperous farmer until 1905, when he sold out and retired to Monticello, where he now lives, honored and esteemed for his useful life and sterling character. Mr. Blume was married at Indianapolis, Ind., March 1, 1865, to Matilda Gehrenbeck, born in Germany, January 5, 1842, daughter of sturdy German parents who brought her to America in 1852, and located with them in Indiana. A pretty romance surrounds the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Blume. Mr. Blume had met and wooed the then Matilda Gehrenbeck before he enlisted in the army. Early in February, being then a brave young lieutenant in the midst of a hard military campaign, he received a letter telling him that owing to the unsettled conditions in America, the Gehrenbeck family was about to return to Germany. Lieutenant Blume at once obtained a short leave of absence, went to Indianapolis, married the lady of his choice and saved her from a trip to Germany, then returning to his duties, a married and happy man. Mr. and Mrs. Blume have had ten children: Herman, Matilda (deceased), Minnie (deceased), Charles, Gottlieb, Nella, Theresa, Anthony, Frank (deceased) and Julia (deceased). Herman lives in Nevis, Minn. He married Eva Goeltz and they have seven children: Margaret, Matilda, Lulu, Walter, Arthur, Herman and John. Matilda married Robert Bredt, and had five children: Titus, George, Marie and Helen (twins), and Theresa (deceased). Minnie married John Lovell, and they had two children: Leona and Newell. Charles lives in Monticello township. He married Emma Lempe and they have two children: Irene and Clarence. Gottlieb lives in Cambridge, Minn. He married Lucinda King and they have two children: Oallah and Dora. Nella is the wife of Gustav Eggena, of Monticello village, and they have two children: Alice and Karl. Theresa is the wife of James Gorman, of Maple Lake village, and they have three children: Viola, Beatrice and Paul. Anthony lives in McGregor, N. D. He married Nettie Truax, and they have a daughter, Gertrude. An important event in the life of Mr. and Mrs. Blume was the celebration, on March 1, 1915, of their golden wedding anniversary. Six children, twenty-one grandchildren and a hundred and thirty guests were present. A banquet and dance were given, speeches were made, the wedding ceremony was reenacted by Rev. Holland, and many gifts received, including a purse of \$60 in gold from the family. Mrs.



Blume wore the same wreath and flowers that her mother had worn on a similar occasion twenty-five years before. The entire community united in its felicitations and congratulations.

**Emil C. Arnold**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in the township where he still lives, June 4, 1876, son of John and Tena (Salden) Arnold, the former a native of Germany and the latter of Belgium. Both are still living. In the family there were eight children: two who died in infancy; Lena, wife of William Rose, of Vernal, Utah; Annie (deceased); Emil C.; Alice (deceased); Adelia, wife of Willis Knight, of Monticello; and Henry George, of Monticello. Emil C. Arnold farmed with his father until about thirty years of age. Then he and his brother, Henry George, took charge of the home place. To the original 120 acres in section 24 they have added until they now own about 179 acres, on which they conduct general farming and stockraising. Mr. Arnold is an independent voter. He was married, June 8, 1910, to Edna Harbel, daughter of Conrad and Charlotte (Haefer) Harbel, the former a native of France and the latter of Germany. Mr. Harbel is dead. Mrs. Harbel still lives in Monticello township. In the Harbel family there were three children: Laura, wife of Don McCormick, of Monticello; a girl who died in infancy, and Edna, the wife of Emil C. Arnold. Mr. and Mrs. Arnold have two children: Evelyn Charlotte, born July 19, 1911; and Vernon Emil, born June 12, 1913.

**Henry George Arnold**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in the township where he still lives, May 16, 1885, son of John and Tena (Salden) Arnold. He was reared on the farm, attended the district schools, and worked for his father until 1906, when he and his brother, Emil C. Arnold, took over the home place of 120 acres, to which they have since added until they now own about 179 acres, on which they conduct general farming and stock raising. Mr. Arnold is a Republican in politics. Mr. Arnold was married December 29, 1909, to Marie M. Bredt, and they have four children: Evan Henry, Helen Alice, Clyde Berton, Leona.

**Charles L. Southerland**, farmer and stock raiser of Monticello township, was born in Logansport, Cass county, Indiana, November 14, 1867, son of Edwin John and Margaret (Neville) Southerland, who brought him to Wright county in 1875. He attended the district schools, helped his father grub and clear the land, and was reared to agricultural pursuits. Aside from one season's farming in Washington and sixteen months' mining in Idaho, he has spent his life since his early arrival, on the home farm. He now owns the place, and in addition to this has purchased 96 acres from his father, so that now he has 214 acres of excellent land in sections 20 and 29. He has achieved success

in life by hard labor, close application to duty and temperate habits, and is now one of the leading and representative farmers of the community. He carries on general farming and pays especial attention to stock raising.

**Edwin John Southerland**, for many years one of Wright county's respected farmers, was born in Cass county, Indiana, there received his education, and there grew to manhood. As a young man he married Margaret Neville, a native of Edgar county, Illinois. In the fall of 1875 they came to Monticello township, this county, and purchased 160 acres in section 20, as well as 240 acres over the river in Sherburne county. The land in Monticello township, on which they settled, was all wild and heavily wooded. Mr. Southerland erected a log cabin, and began his preparations for establishing his home in the wilderness. He grubbed and cleared the land and became one of the leading citizens of his township. In time he developed a splendid farm, erected a sightly frame house, and other buildings, and followed farming for many years. In his later years he moved to the village of Monticello. In 1911 Mrs. Southerland died, and soon afterward Mr. Southerland sold his village property and moved back to the farm, making his home with his son, Charles, until his death, December 13, 1913. Mr. Southerland was a veteran of the Civil War, having served three years and three months in Company E, 107th Illinois Volunteer Infantry, going in as a private and coming out as a sergeant. During this period he took part in all the important battles, and skirmishes of his regiment. His twin brother Edward, who was a first lieutenant, was killed in the Battle of the Wilderness. Mr. and Mrs. Southerland were the parents of seven children: Edward, now of Douglas county, Oregon; Charles L., of Monticello township; Nettie, wife of M. E. Freeman, of Alberta, Canada; Elizabeth, wife of Frank L. Hanson, of Monticello township; and Frank (deceased), Mattie (deceased), and Alice.

**Charles Anderson**, farmer and dairyman, Monticello, was born in Sweden, January 11, 1858, son of Andrew and Kate (Johnson) Anderson, who spent the span of their years in Sweden. In the family there were three children, Peter and Matilda, both deceased, and Charles. Charles Anderson started for himself at the age of ten years. In 1881 he came to America, and located in Marquette county, Michigan, for about four years. Then he lived in Minneapolis for about ten years. In 1894 he purchased eighty acres on section 19, Monticello township, where he has made improvements, and where he carries on general farming and dairying. In politics, Mr. Anderson is independent. His family faith is that of the Swedish Lutheran church. Mr. Anderson was married November 21, 1888 to Hannah Carlson, who died December 21, 1897. There were two

children, Clifford, who is at home, and Mabel Hannah, who is dead.

**John Eastlick**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello, was born in Olmsted county, Minn., May 15, 1861, son of John and Lavina (Day) Eastlick, natives of Ohio, who came to Minnesota in 1860. The father and the other five sons, Merton, Frank, Giles, Fred and William, were killed at Lake Shattuck, during the Indian massacre. Later the mother married Solomon Pettibone, and now lives in Monticello township. By this marriage there is one child, Laura, the wife of Angus McDonald, of Alberta, Canada.

John Eastlick has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits. In 1901 he came to Wright county, and purchased 83 acres in section 16, Monticello township, where he has since carried on general farming and stock raising. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Eastlick married Margaret McKee, a native of Minnesota, and they have six children: John, Theodore, William, Harry H., Merton M., Luke (deceased), and Cora. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Amon H. Buckmaster**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in Prairie du Chien, Wis., August 21, 1859, son of George and Mary Ann (Boyer) Buckmaster, the former of whom was a native of Germany, and the latter of Ohio, of Scottish descent. The father was a carpenter by trade, and died in Wisconsin. The mother died in Red Wing, Minn. In the family there were four children: Hayman (deceased); Amon H.; an unnamed boy (deceased); and Leander, of Oregon. Almon H. was brought to Dakota county, Minn., by his widowed mother at the age of ten years, and was with his grandfather in Sherburne county until seventeen years of age. Subsequently he devoted several years to lumbering in the pineries, to saw-mill work and to threshing. He located in Monticello in 1884. In 1905 he purchased sixty acres in section 16, Monticello township. He now owns 118 acres and carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a substantial citizen and has served on the city council of Monticello. In politics he is a Republican. Mr. Buckmaster married Beatrice Rand, of Elk River, Minn., and they have had seven children: Ina, wife of H. D. Hoblet, of Montana; Julian, George, Harry, Maria, Louis and Nettie May, at home.

**William Kiebel**, farmer, Monticello township, was born in Germany, May 10, 1853, son of Jacob and Louise Kiebel, who spent the span of their years in Germany. In the family there were six children. William Kiebel came to America at the age of nineteen, and located in Green Lake county, Wisconsin. In 1902 he came to Wright county and purchased 28 acres in section 8, Monticello township. He has made some excellent im-



provements, and devotes his attention to general farming and stockraising. Mr. Kiebel votes independently. He is a member of the Lutheran church. Mr. Kiebel married Frances Tuddy, a native of Germany, and this union has been blessed with nine children: Ida, wife of Ed Muske, of Monticello; Helen, wife of A. Swafford, of Monticello; Rose, wife of Ed M. Jordan, of Minneapolis; Rolla, of Monticello; Adeline, wife of Fred Hunt, of St. Cloud, Minn.; Oscar, at home; Laura, at home; and two boys who died in infancy.

**Joseph R. Wren**, farmer and stock raiser, Monticello township, was born in Buffalo, this county, March 17, 1869, son of Thomas and Virginia (Prime) Wren, natives respectively of Canada and New York state, who came to Wright county in the sixties and located near Buffalo. Thomas Wren was a private for three years in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and followed the fortunes of that regiment in its various campaigns, battles and skirmishes. He died February 23, 1904. His wife lives in Monticello. They had three children: Etta, wife of W. S. Barney, of Buffalo; Joseph R., and Fred, who was killed in a railroad wreck. Joseph R. stayed with his parents until he was twenty-one years of age. Then after working for a time as a thresher in North Dakota, he purchased 123 acres in section 14, Monticello township. Although he has been burned out once he has made a success of his undertakings, and his place is modern in every particular, from the new house to the well-tilled acres. Mr. Wren carries on general farming and stock raising. He belongs to the A. F. & A. M., the Eastern Star, the I. O. O. F., the Rebekah Degree, and the M. W. A. He is a Republican in politics, and the family faith is that of the Congregational church. Mr. Wren was married February 22, 1899, to Hattie Bryant, daughter of Alonzo and Clara (Mallette) Bryant, both now deceased, natives of Maine, who came to Wright county in the late fifties and located in Monticello township. In their family there were nine children: Leroy, Louise (deceased); Hattie, wife of Joseph R. Wren; Frank, of Monticello; Maude, wife of Howard Cleveland; George, of Monticello; Archie (deceased); Eva, wife of Oscar Swanson, of Monticello; and Chester, of Monticello. Mr. and Mrs. Wren have one daughter, Mildred Esther, born December 10, 1900.

**James Madigan**, pioneer of Maple Lake, and for many years a conspicuous figure in the life of the community, was born in County Clare, Ireland, in 1833, and came to America as a boy. In 1857 he took up land in Maple Lake township, this county, and in 1860 moved thereon with his wife. He became a successful farmer, and attained a position of importance and influence among his neighbors. A devout Catholic, he took an interest in church affairs, and was one of the charter members of St.



Timothy's church. James Madigan originally owned the land where the present town of Maple Lake now stands. In December, 1886, when the town site of Maple Lake was platted, W. D. Washburn, president of the "Soo" railway at that time, became half owner in the original town site of Maple Lake. In September, 1887, W. D. Wasburn sold his interest in the town site of Maple Lake, to the Pacific Land Co., of Minneapolis. During the next two years the sale of lots was conducted under the management of the Pacific Land Co. and James Madigan. In February, 1889, James Madigan bought the interests of the Pacific Land Co. at Maple Lake, and the business was conducted under the management of Mr. Madigan; more ground was platted, and the town continued to grow until it became one of the most prosperous and best towns in Wright county.

Of the circumstances of his deeply-mourned death, the Maple Lake Messenger said: "Saturday forenoon, July 31, 1909, the community was shocked to hear of the death of its oldest resident. James Madigan left his house about 8 o'clock to look over a meadow across the railroad from the station, and while returning a few minutes later was struck by a freight train. Both legs were cut off. Medical aid was summoned, but he died without regaining consciousness at 8:45 in the evening. The exact manner in which the accident occurred is not known. The train which caused his death had been standing on the side track for some time and was just getting under headway at the time of the accident. The deceased was walking along the main track, evidently forgetting the switch between the passing track and the original side track." James Madigan was married at Stubenville, Ohio, April 12, 1857, to Mary O'Loughlin, who still lives on the old homestead. There are five children and twenty grandchildren. The children are: Thomas and James, of Maple Lake; Mary, wife of J. W. Murray, of Rhame, North Dakota; Anna C., wife of R. M. Glynn, of Maple Lake; and Emma, wife of W. P. Strout, of Minneapolis.

**Rev. Father F. C. O'Brien**, pastor of St. Timothy's parish, Maple Lake, was born in Helena township, Scott county, Minnesota, November 22, 1872, son of John and Elizabeth (Delaney) O'Brien, natives respectively of Counties Tipperary and Queens, Ireland. As a young boy the subject of this mention entered the district schools of his neighborhood. At the age of fourteen he was taken to Rice county, and there he likewise attended the district schools, and also the Faribault high school. With this preparation he became a teacher in the rural schools of Rice county. In the meantime he had determined to devote his life to the service of the Mother Church. Accordingly he entered St. Thomas College, at St. Paul, took the academic course, and graduated in 1896. After completing his philosophical studies

at the Catholic University of America, at Washington, D. C., he entered St. Paul Seminary, and there took his theological studies. It was in 1902 that he was ordained to the priesthood by Archbishop John Ireland, being at once appointed curate to Rev. James O'Riely, of St. Anthony Parish, Minneapolis, North East. Two years later he assumed his present work as rector of St. Timothy Church at Maple Lake and of the mission St. Charles in Chatham township. With enthusiasm and devotion he began his duties, and at once won his way to the hearts of the community. His first work was to erect a splendid parish house, which is all paid for. Extensive improvements on the church building have likewise been made and paid for. So much, indeed, has the parish prospered that a goodly amount toward the \$40,000 required for a new church has already been subscribed. The parish of St. Timothy now has about 125 families; the mission at Chatham about fifty. Father O'Brien is a strong temperance advocate, and has done much to subdue the liquor business in this community. He is likewise a strong believer in county option. Having been a school teacher for many years, it is natural that he should take a deep interest in educational matters. His voice is ever raised in behalf of educating the children, and his views are thoroughly respected and heeded. In fact, in every move that has for its object the betterment of the community and the uplift of humanity, Father O'Brien takes his part. He is a man of noble character and wide activities, and the people of this community of all denominations declare that the world is better for his living in it.

In 1909, a new deanery was established in the Archdiocese of St. Paul, known as the Deanery of Maple Lake. It includes the parishes of Holy Name, Hamel, Loretto, Buffalo, Maple Lake, Annandale, Watkins, and Eden Valley. Over this Father O'Brien was appointed dean by Archbishop Ireland. He is now known by his friends as the "Dean of the 'Soo Line.' "

John O'Brien, the respected father of the Rev. Father F. C. O'Brien, was born in County Tipperary, Ireland, and came to America at the age of eighteen. At Little Canada, Minn., he was married to Elizabeth Delaney, a native of Queens county, who had been brought to America as a young girl by her parents. The clergyman who performed the service was the Rev. Father Roberts, afterward pastor of the parish at Chatham, this county. It was about 1860 that John O'Brien took a homestead in Helena, Scott county, where he experienced all the hardships of pioneer life. The land was originally all heavily timbered. He cleared and broke the land, made improvements from time to time, and in time developed a splendid place. He also became one of the influential members of the community. In 1886 he sold this farm, and moved to a farm near Faribault, in Rice county, this state,

where he remained until his death October 24, 1894. His wife remained on the farm until 1911, then sold out and removed to Minneapolis, where she still resides. Mr. and Mrs. O'Brien had nine children: Stanzy (deceased), John, Mary, Catherine (deceased), Martin (deceased), Joseph A., Rev. F. C., Annie and Emily. John lives in Minneapolis. Mary is now a sister of the Order of St. Joseph, and is stationed at the St. Joseph Orphan Asylum in St. Paul. Joseph A. is in the automobile and undertaking business at Minneapolis.

**Alexander Payne**, stock raiser, Maple Lake township, was born in the Province of Quebec, April 13, 1850, son of Medard and Rosalie (Gregorie) Payne, who spent the span of their years in Canada. In the family there were twelve children: Nels (deceased); Joseph, a veteran of the Civil War (deceased); Moses (deceased); Rose (twin of Moses), of Vermont; Mary, of Vermont; Alexander; Louis, of Marysville township, this county; Mary and Aurelia, of Massachusetts; Rose (deceased); Peter (deceased); and two who died in infancy. Alexander Payne left home at the age of fifteen and upon coming to the United States worked for some years in New York state. After his marriage in 1869 he came to Stillwater, this state, where he remained about fourteen years. In 1882 he bought eighty acres in Maple Lake township, section 1, where he has made some excellent improvements and where he now carries on general farming and stock raising. He is a Republican in politics and has been on the school board, either as director or clerk, for twenty-three years. Mr. Payne was married, September 6, 1869, to Matilda Judd, and to this union were born four children: Emma, wife of James Colwell, of Anoka; Ida (deceased); Ira (deceased), and one that died in infancy. For his second wife he married Elizabeth Labo, a native of Illinois, who died in 1889. To this union three children were born: Oscar (deceased); Laura, wife of George Veo, of Marysville, Minn.; Delia, wife of Nils Persian, of Marysville, Minn.; and Rose (deceased). For his third wife he married Mattie Hamilton, a native of Maple Lake, this county. To this union have been born four children: Joseph A., Grace Mary, attending the normal department of the high school at Buffalo; Emary, at home; and Ezra, at home.

**Joseph F. Baker**, Maple Lake township, county commissioner from the first district, was born in section 26, in the township where he still resides, August 7, 1873, son of Joseph and Christina (Elsenpeter) Baker, natives of Germany, who came to this country and located in Illinois, where they lived until 1867, when they came to Wright county and located on a farm in section 26, Maple Lake township. The father died there and the mother lives in Monticello. In the family there were six children: Mary, wife of William Bertram, of Monticello; Rose, of Monticello;





ALEXANDER PAYNE AND FAMILY





Joseph F.; Anna, wife of Robert Brett, of Buffalo township, this county; Josephine, wife of Ernest Holler, of International Falls, Minn.; and Catherine, wife of Mons Hawkins, of Monticello. Joseph F. Baker lost his father at the age of fourteen, and since that time has continued to operate the home farm of 160 acres on which he conducts general farming and stock raising, making a specialty of feeding cattle and breeding Poland-China swine. He is a Republican in politics, has served his town three years as assessor, and in 1908 was elected county commissioner. He is a member of the M. W. A., of Maple Lake. In 1914 he erected a fine modern home. Mr. Baker was married, June 17, 1903, to Anastasia Veches, a native of Bohemia, and they have four children: Margaret Anna, Ethel Christina, Marvin Joseph and Earl Francis. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

**John Ward**, a retired farmer living in Maple Lake, was born in Tuam, County Galway, Ireland, May 25, 1837, son of Michael and Margaret (Thornton) Ward. He came to America at the age of seventeen, and worked in New York for two years. In 1856 he took up farming in La Salle county, Illinois. At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in Company D, Twenty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, and served three years, being mustered out in West Virginia, with the rank of corporal. At Lexington, Mo., he was shot in the right forearm and captured. From September 19, 1861, to January 6, 1862, he was on parole. Then he was again back in the thick of the fighting. He participated in the battles of Gettysburg, South Mountain, Antietam and Chancellorsville, as well as in a dozen or more important skirmishes. It was in 1866 that he brought his wife to Wright county and settled in section 33, Maple Lake township, where he secured eighty acres of timbered land. He cleared this land, erected buildings, and here successfully conducted general farming for many years. In October, 1913, he retired and moved to the village of Maple Lake, where he now resides. He has always done his part toward the progress of the community and has served as school clerk of his district some thirty years. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. John Ward was married, December 27, 1864, to Mary Mack, daughter of John and Anne (Cantlion) Mack. John Mack was a mason by trade. He was born in England, and in 1856 settled in Earlville, Ill. He was a thorough patriot and served three years in the Fifty-Third Illinois Volunteer Infantry, proving his valor in many engagements. Mr. and Mrs. Ward have had seven children: William E. lives in Portal, Minn.; Margaret is the wife of Daniel Seannell; Anne is the wife of William Ellis, of Maple Lake; Michael lives in Minneapolis; Alice is the wife of Carl West, of Minneapolis; Mary and Robert live on the home farm.

**James G. Nugent**, a retired resident of Maple Lake village, was born in Medford, Middlesex county, Mass., June 27, 1844, son of James Nugent, a native of Ireland, and Maria L. (Lamb) Nugent, a native of Massachusetts. The family moved from Massachusetts to Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, and from there came to Minnesota in 1857 and located in St. Paul. In September, 1858, they came to Wright county and located on a claim of 160 acres in Chatham township. The tract was covered with heavy timber. They put up a log cabin, providing it first with a roof of hay, and later with a "shake" roof. They broke and grubbed the land, and as time passed became prominent people in the community. In 1870 they erected a frame house and a modern barn, and year by year the farm was developed and improved until it was one of the best in the neighborhood. There James Nugent followed farming until his death in 1877. His devoted wife died May 15, 1904. In the family there were three children: James G., of Maple Lake; John C. (deceased), and Lucy M., now Mrs. Michael Smith, of Chatham township. James G. Nugent received his early education in Massachusetts. He came with his parents from Medford, Massachusetts, to Sault Ste Marie, thence with them to St. Paul, and from there with them to Chatham township in September, 1858. With his family he lived in a log cabin, assisted in developing the place, and underwent all the privations of pioneer life. At the opening of the Sioux troubles in August, 1862, he enlisted in Captain Nelson's company for three months. October 14, 1862, he enlisted in Company D, First Minnesota Mounted Rangers, and served until November 16, 1863, when he was honorably discharged. Then he returned home and remained until October 16, 1864, when he enlisted as a veteran in Company B, Sixth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served until the close of the conflict. He was discharged at Ft. Snelling and returned home. Then he remained on the farm with his father until October, 1866, when he took a homestead of eighty acres in section 32, Chatham township. He broke and cleared the land and continued in agricultural pursuits. In 1883 he sold this farm and purchased another one of eighty acres in Maple Lake township. For a time he engaged in the buying and selling of horses and became widely known as a breaker of colts. He was influential in creating two new school districts in Chatham township, and one in Maple Lake township. He was a member of the school board for many terms and was assessor of Chatham township for some twenty years. He now lives retired in Maple Lake village. Mr. Nugent was married in October, 1866, to Maggie A. Varner, who died October 14, 1873, leaving four children: Norman; Ella, now Mrs. Horace Bohanon, of Minneapolis; Lucy, now Mrs. Nelson Eccles, of Clearwater; and Ida, now Mrs. John Sture-

walt, of Silver Creek. Mr. Nugent was married October 16, 1874, to Elizabeth Peters, and this union has been blessed with ten children: James W. (deceased); Minnie M., now Mrs. George Cohn, of Portland, Oregon; Elizabeth (deceased); Eunice (deceased); Laura (deceased); Hattie, now Mrs. Frank Tousley, of Verona, N. D.; Sadie (deceased); Clarence (deceased); Cecelia, now Mrs. William Fortwengler, of Kellogg, Minn.; and Elsie, a capable teacher now in North Dakota.

**Frederick John Peters**, and his good wife, Anna Sophia, came to Wright county in 1865, and purchased 160 acres of land in Rockford township. A few acres of this land had been broken, and a log shanty stood on the place. They at once set at work to improve and develop the farm, and their hard work and thrift reaped its due reward. In due time, a slightly residence and good set of out buildings replaced the log structure, and Mr. Peters became identified with the active life of the community, following general farming on an extensive scale. In 1898 they sold their farm and moved to the village of Delano, where they continued to live until 1898, and then moved to Detroit, Michigan, where they spent their declining years, both dying in May, 1905, he on the third day, and she on the thirtieth. There are four children: William, now of Chautauqua county, New York; Rebecca, now Mrs. Charles Knoll, of Delano, Minn.; John, of Canada; and Elizabeth Julia, now Mrs. James G. Nugent, of Maple Lake.

**John Goelz**, for many years a substantial farmer of Corinna township, was born in Germany, July 24, 1858, son of John Goelz, Sr., and Margaret (Schmidt) Goelz. John Goelz, Sr., was born in Germany, and learned the trade of weaving. As a young man he came to Iowa county, Wisconsin, and worked for his brother on a farm for one and a half years. In 1869 he came to Minnesota, and took a homestead on section 24, Maple Lake township. He cut off the timber, and broke the land and developed a good farm. His first structure on the place was a cabin of unhewed logs, 16 by 22 feet. The house was somewhat better than the average at that period, there being a board floor and a shingled roof. The first wagon he had was home-made, the wheels being constructed of oak planks. For drawing this vehicle and for help in his farm work he used a cow and a steer hitched together. He was at first unable to clear more than four or five acres a year. Hard work and industry won the victory, and the place in time became as good a one as could be found in the neighborhood. John Goelz, the subject of this sketch, was brought to Maple Lake by his parents, and was reared on the home place, attending the public schools and learning farming from his father. At the age of twenty-eight he bought seventy-six acres in section 23, Corinna



township, where he farmed until 1907. When he started he had two cows, two pigs, and a few chickens; a grub hoe, a plow, an axe, a scythe, and a cradle. He purchased in addition to these a yoke of oxen. He built a frame house, 16 by 26, a story and a half high, and later, from time to time, he erected barns and sheds. The second year he raised about 140 bushels of wheat, about half of which he marketed in Monticello and Clearwater at \$1 a bushel. It was with a beginning that Mr. Goelz became a prominent and prosperous man. He built up a sightly place and became very successful and carried on general farming. He has been a member of both town and school boards. In 1907 he retired and moved to the village of Maple Lake, where he has a fine residence and is enjoying the afternoon of life in peace and plenty. The farm is now conducted by his son, Adam H. Mr. Goelz was married November 15, 1883, to Anna L. Schefchick, daughter of John and Anna (Hudek) Schefchick, of Maple Lake township. Mr. and Mrs. Goelz have had four children: Helen Rosa is the wife of W. J. Dircks, section 13, Corinna township; Adam H. married Mary Cordell, and lives on the home place; Lila May died at the age of fifteen; another died in infancy. John and Anna Schefchick were of Bohemian blood. They came to Wright county in 1870 and became prosperous farmers of Maple Lake township.

**John B. Roehrenbach**, one of the founders of Maple Lake village, and present manager of the Maple Lake Telephone Company, was born in Odessa, in Waseca county, this state, April 27, 1859, son of John and Lucille Roehrenbach. John Roehrenbach was a farmer and miller. From 1874 to 1879 he lived in Delano, in Wright county. He died in Stevens county, this state, in 1904. His wife died in the same county about 1898. John B. Roehrenbach was reared in the western part of this state. The Indian outbreak found him at Breckenridge. When that place was burned by the Sioux, he fled with a fourteen months old baby to Campbell, skulking through the tall grass, wet and chilled by rain and cold. In 1877 he entered the employ of the Great Northern railroad, and worked for that concern five years as a brakeman and four and a half years as a conductor. It was in 1886 that he became the pioneer in Maple Lake. He erected the first store in the village, and conducted a general mercantile establishment for five years. Then for some years he dealt in lumber, and engaged in general contracting and building. In 1909 he took charge of the Maple Lake Telephone Co., as general manager. In this capacity he has given the best of satisfaction. He is capable, courteous, a thorough believer in good service, and the line under his charge has reached the highest degree of efficiency. Mr. Roehrenbach is one of the active of popular men in the village and has been

a member and president of the village council as well as a member of the school board. He attends the Catholic church at Maple Lake and belongs to the Catholic Order of Foresters there. John B. Roehrenbach was married August 7, 1883, to Regina Hahn, daughter of Joseph and Christina Hahn, market gardeners near St. Paul. In the family there are two sons, Charles and Leo, Charles in St. Paul, employed by the Great Northern, and Leo in Onamia, employed by the "Soo" line.

**Frank W. Enghauser**, for many years a well-known citizen of this county, was a native born son of this region. Born in Middleville township, October 29, 1879, and died in Maple Lake village, May 13, 1914; this comparatively brief life was filled with busy work and successful accomplishment. His career was a useful one, and his years were well-lived. Frank W. Enghauser was the son of Joseph and Matilda (Heaton) Enghauser, the pioneers. He was reared on the farm and attended the district school. At the age of eighteen he went to Buffalo, and learned the barber trade with Walter Davis. Then he opened a shop of his own in Maple Lake. In 1902 and 1903 he was in the real estate business in the same village. For the next five years he again devoted his attention to barber work. In 1908 he spent the year in regaining his failing health. It was in April, 1909, that he bought the controlling interest in the Maple Lake Telephone Co., which had been organized in 1905. When Mr. Enghauser took hold of it, there were 125 subscribers. By hard work and energetic determination he increased this list to 320. Since his death, his wife has owned the company. Mr. Enghauser was married December 30, 1903, to Josephine E. Zimmerman, daughter of Frederick and Matilda (Nelson) Zimmerman. She was born May 16, 1882, the youngest of a family of three, and was educated in the Annandale schools. Mr. and Mrs. Enghauser have two children. Paul was born June 6, 1908. John Francis was born May 21, 1912.

**John P. Gorman**, former postmaster, Maple Lake, was born August 18, 1869, in Port Hope, Canada, son of James and Bridget (Gearrie) Gorman, the former a native of Canada, and the latter of Ireland. In 1870 they came to Maple Lake and secured a farm. They are now retired. In the family there were seven children: Mary J., wife of A. J. Phillip, of Minneapolis; James F.; John P.; Margaret, wife of E. E. Connuch, of Gull Lake, Canada; Anna, wife of J. D. Kennedy, of Maple Lake; Lucy (deceased); and Thomas, of Maple Lake. John P. Gorman remained with his father until he was twenty-two years of age. Then he went to Little Falls, Minn., and engaged in the manufacturing business. Later he took up farming. He purchased 137 acres in Maple Lake township, and farmed there for three years. He then operated a hotel and livery in Maple Lake. For three years he was

postmaster at Maple Lake. He now owns a farm in Albion township, and is interested to some extent in the real estate business. Mr. Gorman is one of the most prominent men in the community. He was village president four years and town treasurer five years, and has served in minor offices. He votes the Republican ticket, and belongs to the M. W. A. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Gorman is married, and has four children: Mildred Frances, Eloise Marion, Catherine Helen and Walter I.

**George A. Miller**, scientific dairyman, was born in Faribault, Minn., March 25, 1876, son of Charles T. and Catherine (Finlayson) Miller, grandson of George W. Miller, and great-grandson of William Miller. Charles T. Miller was a railroad engineer for the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway. In 1879 he lost both his hands as the result of a railroad accident. George W. Miller was state evangelist for the First Day Advent Christian church. He died about 1874 as the result of injuries received in a runaway accident at Monticello. William Miller was the founder of the "Millerites," the sect which developed into the Advent church. He was also a colonel in the War of 1812, and took part in the Battle of Lundy's Lane. As a boy George A. Miller became interested in dairying, and in 1894 he spent the winter as a student in the dairy department of the University of Minnesota. Then he became agent at the skimming station at Millersburg, Rice county, Minnesota, for the Crescent Creamery Company, of St. Paul. In 1897 he went into the creamery business in Millersburg. From 1899 to 1901 he conducted a grocery store in Dundas, Minn. Then from 1901 to 1907 he was in the creamery business at Lakeville, Minn. It was in 1907 that he came to Chatham township, in this county, and became secretary, manager and buttermaker for the Chatham Co-operative Dairy Association. May 1, 1911, he became farm dairy inspector for the Minnesota State Dairy and Food Department. In connection with traveling over the state investigating farm dairy conditions, this position also involved responsibilities as a teacher in the State Dairy school, which as a boy he had many years before attended. April 1, 1914, Mr. Miller became buttermaker for the Maple Lake Farmers' Co-operative Creamery, in which capacity he is meeting with great success. Aside from being so thorough a master of his profession, Mr. Miller is also an inventor of note. He has perfected a farm cream cooler that has been endorsed by the State Food and Dairy Department, and by the leading dairy authorities of the Northwest. Mr. Miller was married, June 27, 1906, to Maude Amidon, daughter of Charles F. and Martha (Thompson) Amidon, pioneers of Lakeville, Minn. Mr. and Mrs. Miller have three children: Kenneth, born May 5, 1907; Jay, born April 28, 1909; and Rex, born June 15, 1912. The family belongs to the



Fifth Christian Scientist Church, of Minneapolis. Mr. Miller belongs to the blue lodge and the chapter of the Masonic body, and the M. W. A. and the M. B. A.

**Steven J. Ertel**, farmer, Maple Lake township, was born in Indiana, May 29, 1879, son of Henry and Elizabeth (Enxel) Ertel, natives of Indiana, now living near Batesville, in that state. In the family there were seven children: Mary, wife of John Schwegmann, of Indiana; Clara, of Batesville, Ind.; Steven J.; and Clemence, Emma, Anna and Joseph, of Batesville, Ind. Steven J. has devoted his life to farming. In 1902 he came to Wright county, and settled on 160 acres in section 22, Maple Lake township. The tract at that time was heavily wooded. Mr. Ertel cut down the timber, broke the land and erected buildings, and brought the place to a high degree of improvement. He carries on general farming and is one of the prosperous men of the township. Mr. Ertel is a Democrat in politics, and has served as assessor of the township for three years. He has also been assistant road overseer. Fraternally he associates with the Catholic Order of Foresters. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Ertel was married, May 12, 1903, to Jane McAlpine, and they have one son, Henry Steven, born November 7, 1906. Mrs. Ertel was the daughter of John and Ellen (Halalan) McAlpine, pioneers of Wright county, both now deceased. In the McAlpine family there were ten children: John (deceased); Thomas, of Summerlands, British Columbia; Mamie, wife of W. D. Young, of Princeton, British Columbia; Agnes (deceased); Jane, wife of Steven J. Ertel; George, of Maple Lake township; Rosanna, wife of John O. Laughlin, of Minneapolis; Paul (deceased); Francis, of Chisholm, Minn.; and Irene, who lives with Rosanna.

**James McAlpine**, farmer and stock raiser, Maple Lake township, was born in Ireland, in 1842, son of Patrick and Bridget (McKeown) McAlpine. The family started for America in 1843. The father and two children died on shipboard. The mother, with John (now deceased), Michael (now of Iowa) and James, continued the trip and settled in Canada. For her second husband the mother married Michael Donohue, and this union has been blessed with five children: Thomas (deceased); Michael, of Canada; Bridget, wife of William Kennedy, of Canada; Maria (deceased), and Annie, the wife of Patrick Evans, of Canada. James McAlpine remained with his mother in Canada until twenty years old. He devoted his youth to farming, logging and river driving. It was in 1865 that he came to Wright county, and located in section 34, Maple Lake township, where he secured eighty acres. He now owns 114 acres of good land and carries on general farming. Mr. McAlpine was married, September 29, 1874, to Mary McDonald, a native of the Province of Ontario,



Canada, daughter of John and Mary (Nicholson) McDonald. The father died in Canada, and the mother came to Wright county in 1897 and died two years later. In the McDonald family there were nine children: Patrick, of Stuart, Minn.; James (deceased); John, of Grand Rapids, Minn.; Thomas (deceased); Peter, of Hibbing, Minn.; Margaret, the wife of William Carral, of Hibbing, Minn.; Bridget, the wife of Thomas Mooney; and Julia, the wife of John Doran, of Grand Rapids, Minn. The oldest in the family is Mary, the wife of James McAlpine. Mr. and Mrs. McAlpine have had ten children: James (deceased); John (deceased); Michael, at home; Mary, of Grand Rapids, Minn.; Nellie, a teacher; Alfred, chief of the fire department at Chisholm, Minn.; Blanche, a teacher; Margaret and Lillian, at home; and Cora, who is attending the St. Cloud State Normal School.

**George L. Katilinek**, farmer, Maple Lake township, was born in the township where he still resides, February 15, 1887, son of Thomas and Mary (Meier) Katilinek, natives of Germany, who came to America and settled in section 22, Maple Lake township. In the family there were ten children: Henry (deceased); Alma, wife of Walter Obey; George L.; Genevieve, wife of Leo Rohenbeck, of Onamia, Minn.; Walter, of Maple Lake township; Alice, attending the St. Cloud State Normal School; Nettie, at home; Lester, of Maple Lake township; and Florence and Roger, at home. George L. Katilinek attended the public schools, was reared to agricultural pursuits, has always lived at home, and in 1913 took charge of the home place. He has 160 acres in section 22, and successfully carries on general farming. Mr. Katilinek was married, October 16, 1912, to Lilly Pavlick, of Maple Lake township, and they have one son, Mark, born July 8, 1913. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

**Thomas Hudek**, extensive farmer, Maple Lake township, was born on the Atlantic ocean, August 14, 1859, son of Mathias and Barbara (Ceeh) Hudek, both natives of Bohemia, who came to America in 1859, lived in Chicago a year and a half, and then moved into the rural districts of Cook county, where they lived about eight years and a half. In the fall of 1869 they came to Wright county and located in section 27, Maple Lake township, where they spent the remainder of their lives. The father died April 16, 1888, and the mother August 30, 1899. In the family there were ten children: Mary (deceased); Anna (deceased); John, of St. Paul; Katherine, wife of Robert Campbell, of Clear Lake, Minn.; William (deceased); Thomas; Helen, wife of Harry Campbell, of Sioux City, Iowa, and three who died in infancy. Thomas Hudek lived with his parents until their death, when he came into possession of the home farm. To this he has since added until he now owns 365 acres, all in sections 22 and 27. Here he carries on diversified farming in a successful manner.

In politics he is a Republican. He was county treasurer from 1900 to 1905, and county commissioner from 1894 to 1900, and has served efficiently as town clerk, town treasurer and treasurer of his school district twenty years. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., the M. W. A. and the A. O. U. W. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Hudek was married, August 8, 1882, to Josephine Kotilinek, who died January 19, 1900. To this union seven children were born: Sophia (deceased); George W., of Maple Lake township; Rosa Lyda, wife of Frank Piram, of St. Paul; Josephine, born May 29, 1890, and died November 30, 1905; Laura M., born November 30, 1892, and married to William Opat, of Maple Lake; Thomas Lawrence, born April 9, 1895; and Benjamin Chester, born July 6, 1898. For his second wife Mr. Hudek married Annie Piram, June 26, 1901. She was born in Bohemia, daughter of William and Barbara (Pribyl) Piram, natives of Bohemia. By this union Mr. Hudek has four children: Frances Mary, born October 27, 1902; Theresa Anna, born September 14, 1904; Evelyn Myrtle, born April 9, 1906; and Paul Frank, born October 17, 1908.

**Randall C. McEachern**, farmer, Maple Lake township, was born in section 1, in the township where he still resides, March 25, 1861, son of Angus and Eliza (Hopkins) McEachern, the former a native of Nova Scotia and the mother of another part of Canada. They came to Wright county in the fifties and located in Maple Lake township, where Angus lake is named in his honor. The father is still living at the good old age of eighty-five, while the mother died some years ago. In the family there were eight children: Mary, wife of John McEachern, of Monticello township; Randall C.; Angus, of Delano, this county; John, of Buffalo, this county; Hugh, of Monticello, this county; Archie, of Montreal, Canada; and Alexander and George, of Minneapolis. Randall C. McEachern remained with his father until he was twenty-two years old. Previous to that time, however, he had worked several years in the timber forests. At the age of twenty he bought forty acres of land. To this he has added tracts of 22, 49 and 51 acres each, until he now has a profitable, well-improved farm. In addition to his general farm work he has followed threshing to a considerable extent. In 1910 he went to South Dakota and took a claim. He now owns 480 acres in Perkins county, that state, while his son Walter has 160 and the daughter Eliza Ann has 160. Mr. McEachern is a Republican in politics. He belongs to the I. O. O. F., the M. W. A. and the B. A. Y. Mr. McEachern was married, July 6, 1885, to Mary Ida Shefehick, and this union has been blessed with four children: Eliza Ann, Walter, Margaret and Malcolm. Eliza Ann was born March 28, 1887. Walter was born July 2, 1888. He married Rose Ryan, of Maple Lake, and they live in Buffalo. Margaret was born May

16, 1890. She married Charles Balliet, of Buffalo, and they have one child, May. Malcolm was born January 12, 1892.

**Timothy Desmond**, retired, Maple Lake, was born in Montpelier, Vt., May 26, 1835, son of Timothy and Mary Quinn, natives of Ireland. The father came to America as a young man, lived in Vermont for a time, then went to Maine, and in 1856 came to Wright county, and located in Monticello township, where he and his wife both died. In the family there were twelve children: Eliza, Timothy, Lucy (deceased), James (deceased), Margaret (deceased), Daniel, of Minneapolis; William (deceased), Frank, of Superior, Wis.; Ellen (deceased), Zachariah (deceased), George, of Monticello township, and Maria. Timothy Desmond was reared in his native state and as a young man engaged in the lumber business in Maine with his father. He came to Wright county with his parents, and in 1862 enlisted in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. After his discharge in 1865 he took up farming in Wright county. He was unusually successful, and at one time owned half a section of land. In 1903 he retired and moved to Maple Lake village, where he now resides. In addition to his farm holdings, he is interested in the First State Bank of Maple Lake. He is a prominent member of the G. A. R. post at Buffalo. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Desmond married Nancy Blakely, who died January 1, 1913. Mr. and Mrs. Desmond were blessed with six children: John married Agnes Connis. They live in Duluth and have one son, Connis. Grace married Thomas Madigan, banker, of Maple Lake. They have two sons: Timothy Irving and Paul James. Timothy Irving is a champion lightweight amateur wrestler. Blanche married J. E. Madigan, attorney and statesman, of Maple Lake. They have five children: Mark, Frances, Harriett, Russell and Faith. Vivian married Patrick O'Laughlin. They live at Northome, Minn., and have five children: Pearl, Grace, Daniel, Patrick and Nancy. Mabel married John Connole. Their home is at Sherwood, N. D. They have a daughter, Catherine. Maude married Raymond Kelley. They live at St. Paul and have four sons: Harold, Gerald, Regis and Morris. (Mabel and Maude are twins).

**John Tuberty**, a business man of Maple Lake, was born in Port Hope, Ontario, Canada, November 27, 1856, son of Thomas and Catherine (Mullen) Tuberty. Thomas Tuberty brought his family from Canada to Minnesota, and bought a farm of eighty acres one-half mile north of the village of Maple Lake. There he lived until 1892. Then he and his wife took up their home with their son John in the village and there both ended their days, he in 1894 and she in 1896. John Tuberty remained with his parents until he was twenty years old. Then he and his brother William Tuberty farmed in partnership until 1885. For the next



MR. AND MRS. TIMOTHY DESMOND





three years John Tuberty spent his time in the livery, dray and implement business, part of the time in St. Paul and part of the time in Minneapolis. Then he returned to Maple Lake, where he has since conducted a livery and dray line. He has an excellent business, and is well thought of throughout the entire community. His services as village councilman and constable have been highly commended. Mr. Tuberty was married March 1, 1883, to Catherine Sullivan, daughter of James and Catherine Sullivan, of Maple Lake township. Mrs. Catherine Tuberty died June 1, 1884, leaving one child, Julia. Julia is the wife of Benjamin Klaus, general manager for the International Harvester Company at Mannheim, Germany, and they have two children: Margaret, born March 17, 1903, and Caroline, born in 1907. In 1894, Mr. Tuberty married Mrs. Annie Ralles, daughter of James Connelly, a retired farmer of Minneapolis. Mr. Tuberty is a member of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and the family faith is that of the Catholic church.

**Thomas Provo**, a retired farmer living in Maple Lake, was born near Montreal, Canada, October 15, 1852, son of David and Fleneys (Javen) Provo, both natives of eastern Canada. The other children in the family were: Joseph, Oliver, Unphery, John, an unnamed infant, Amelia, Rose, Emma, Margaret and Flemina. Of this family Joseph was the first to come to Minnesota. In 1876 came Margaret and Thomas. Thomas secured forty acres in Albion township, this county, and cleared off enough timber to build a shanty twelve feet square. He lived alone the first winter and a part of the next summer. Living thus in the wilderness, he endured many hardships. He had to go to Albrecht's mill in Middleville township when he wanted flour. He hauled wood out with the aid of an ox team. In the summer of 1878 he started working out as a farm hand and sold his place. Two years later he returned to Canada. After remaining there three years he brought his father and mother and sister Emma to the United States, and he and his father secured 120 acres together in French Lake township. Two shacks were standing on the place. The father and mother stayed seven or eight years, and then went back to Canada, living in Alberta the remainder of their lives. Thomas Provo remained on his farm for eighteen years. He did much breaking and developing, and finally had a splendid farm. Eighty acres lay in French Lake and eighty in Albion. The splendid buildings which he erected stood on the French Lake half. In 1901 he sold this place and moved to Corinna township, where he lived in section 36 for some twelve years. In 1913 he retired and moved to Maple Lake village and built him a home, where he has since resided. His farm is now conducted by his sons, John and Jule. Mr. Provo was married, January 24, 1885, to Lotene Logiaar, born in St. Martin, France,

in October 16, 1866, daughter of Eugene and Harriett (Chevalier) Logiaar. Mr. and Mrs. Logiaar brought their children to America in the early seventies, spending six weeks aboard the old sailing vessel that brought them over. They located on the homestead of Mrs. Logiaar's father, John Chevalier, in section 8, Albion township, this county. John Chevalier had come from France some years before and secured this location. Later he returned to his native country, where he died. Mr. and Mrs. Provo have had ten children: John, born November 14, 1885; Jule, born February 26, 1887; Mary, born August 17, 1888; Jennie, born March 24, 1890; Rose, born January 21, 1892; Emma, born February 13, 1897; Napoleon, born February 20, 1900; Margaret and Joseph, twins, born July 7, 1904; Willfred, April 6, 1906. Joseph and Willfred both died in infancy.

**Louis Demars**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Hassen, Hennepin county, Minnesota, April 29, 1870, son of McGuire and Amelia (Gagneir) Demars, natives of Canada. The father came to the United States when eighteen years of age, and was employed three years by the government in handling produce between St. Paul and Ft. Snelling. Then he returned to Canada for about seven years. Subsequently he worked in the forests about Lake Superior. In 1865 he came to Sherburne county; then to Hassen in Hennepin county, and engaged in agricultural pursuits. In 1888 he retired to Dayton, in Hennepin county, where he now resides. His wife died in May, 1912. In the family there were eleven children: Brazil, of North Dakota; Richard, of North Dakota; Celia, of Benson, Minnesota; Delvane, of Dayton, Hennepin county; George, of Minneapolis; Caroline, of Hennepin county, this state; Adeline, of Minneapolis; Thomas, of Anoka; Henry (deceased); Louis, and Prosper (deceased). Louis Demars was reared in Hennepin county. At the age of eighteen he secured employment as a teamster in Minneapolis. Then he went to North Dakota with his brothers. Later he attended school at Dayton, Hennepin county. At the age of twenty-two he came to Otsego township, and purchased eighty acres in section 24. He now owns 200 acres, has made some excellent improvements and carries on general farming. He is a Republican in politics, and belongs to the Catholic order of Foresters. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church.

Mr. Demars was married April 25, 1892, to Annie Reiche, born in Canada, July 26, 1874, and to this union eleven children have been born. Delvina, born April 25, 1893, is now Mrs. Leopold Talbott, of St. Michaels, this county. Delima was born September 15, 1894, is now Mrs. Thomas Zimmer, of Otsego township, this county. Emil J. was born September 22, 1896; Elizzie M., April 25, 1900; Lucy M. A., August 15, 1901. Louis M. was born December 18, 1903, and died February 14, 1904.



LOUIS DEMARS AND FAMILY





Odell L. was born June 23, 1904, and died March 29, 1905. Alice and Elsie (twins) were born April 28, 1906. Lorena was born November 26, 1909, and Cyril, February 19, 1914.

**Jefferson Benner** was born at Homeworth, Ohio, October 12, 1832. He came to Minnesota in 1858 and was attending the Hamline University at Red Wing, when he enlisted in the army, April 29, 1861. He reenlisted August 24, 1864, in Hatch's Independent Battalion of Cavalry. He served in all, four and one-half years as soldier. From the close of the war until 1867 he sold goods for a Minneapolis wholesale house. He came to Rockford, Minn., in 1867, where he went into business as a merchant, which he continued up to the time of his death. He married Martha Northrop, June 17, 1870. In 1872 he and Parker and Warren started the woolen mill at Rockford. After a few years he bought Parker & Warren's share, and owned the woolen mill at the time of his death. Martha (Northrop) Benner, wife of Jefferson Benner, was born March 18, 1847, at Orgile, New York. She came with her family to Minnesota the year 1856. They lived on a farm three miles west of Rockford. Mr. and Mrs. Benner belonged to the Episcopal church. Mr. Benner was a G. A. R. man. Mrs. Benner was a W. R. C. and a Eastern Star lady. They were active workers in all society and public work, always ready to help the poor. Mrs. Benner died May 11, 1914, and Mr. Benner died September 9, 1900. He was a Republican in politics.

**Oliver L. Perrault**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Hennepin county, this state, July 19, 1858, son of John B. and Marguerite (Bouley) Perrault, natives of Canada, of French descent. They came to Michigan about 1849, and located on a government claim in Hennepin county, in 1855. The original claim is still in the possession of the family. There were six children: John B., of Hennepin county; Mary O. (deceased); Florence, the wife of Peter Burke, of the state of Washington; Oliver L.; Alfred A., of the state of Washington; and William, of Cass Lake, Minn. Oliver L. purchased 138 acres in section 14, Otsego township, put in a full line of improvements and carries on general farming. He is a Republican in politics and has been supervisor of the township for three years. Mr. Perrault was married August 23, 1893, to Florence Benner, and this union has been blessed with eight children: Clifton O., a graduate of the agricultural department, of the University of Minnesota; Margaret, who is attending the St. Cloud State Normal school; Fletcher, at the Agricultural school, St. Paul; Malcolm, who attends the Monticello high school; Bernice, Gertrude, Cora (deceased), and Albert, the younger children, are attending the common schools. Mrs. Oliver L. Perrault was the daughter of Jefferson and Martha Northrop Benner.

**James W. Morrell**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Robbinstown, Maine, October 24, 1853, son of John and Mary (Lahey) Morrell, natives of New Brunswick, Canada, who came from Maine to Minnesota in 1857, and located in Otsego township, where they ended their days. In the family there were six children: Irene (deceased); Maria; Jane; John; Rachael (deceased); and James W. James W. Morrell grew to manhood in this county, and spent several years working in the lumber woods and on the river. Then he bought 160 acres of wild land, which he cleared, broke, improved, and sold. Then he bought another tract of 160 acres which he operated some five years and then sold. Later he bought 100 acres on section 23, where he now lives, and where he has a splendid place. He does general farming and dairying and makes a specialty of fruit growing. He is a Republican in politics, and belongs to the Masons. By his first wife, Henrietta, Mr. Morrell had three children: William J., of Otsego township; Lee R. (deceased); and Ellis J., of Chicago. The present Mrs. Morrell was Emma Thorp, a native of Wright county. They have three children: Clayton, Lester and James W., Jr.

**William J. Morrell**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in the township where he still resides, May 11, 1879, son of James W. and Henrietta Morrell. He remained at home until he was about twenty-two years of age, and then rented the home place for a while. Later he rented eighty acres on section 22, Otsego township, which he now owns. He also rents 120 acres in Monticello township, which he operates in connection with the home place. He carries on general farming and has been very successful. He is an independent voter, and has been supervisor of the township, in which capacity he has done good service. Mr. Morrell was married November 1, 1905, to Jennie Crozier, and they have four children: Harold William, Vernon, Bernice and Floyd. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church.

**Edson D. Washburn**, a pioneer of Otsego township, was born in Essex county, New York, January 19, 1842, son of John W. and Mahetable (Lawrence) Washburn, who brought him to Wright county in September, 1856, and located on section 23, Otsego township. He spent his youth there, and on August 14, 1862, enlisted under Captain Edward Hartley, in Company E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. He followed the fortunes of that regiment in the Northwest against the Indians and in the South against the Confederates, and was mustered out at Ft. Snelling after about three years' of hard service, having in 1864, been promoted to corporal. Then he farmed on section 13, Otsego township for some five years, after which he came to the farm which he now owns. He has been very successful







MR. AND MRS. JOHIAL HARRINGTON



MR. AND MRS. H. O. HARRINGTON

and has about 300 acres of excellent land, on which is conducted general farming and stock raising. Mr. Washburn has served in practically all the town offices. He was chairman of the town board two years and justice of the peace for twenty years, as well as a member of the school board for many terms. He is patriotic instructor of Sedgwick Post, No. 52, G. A. R., of Monticello; and a member of Monticello Lodge, No. 16, A. F. & A. M. The family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Washburn was married May 26, 1866, to Amelia Wells, a native of New York state. This union was blessed with seven children. Orson M. lives at Seappoose, Oregon. D. Cuyler lives in Otsego township. He is a civil engineer and present county surveyor. Helen is dead. Robert M. is professor of dairy husbandry in the agricultural department of the University of Minnesota. R. J. is a dentist at Hope, North Dakota. He served eighteen months in the Philippines as a private in Company F, Thirteenth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. Lura M. is the wife of C. A. Rowley, of Nortonville, North Dakota. Edson lives in Otsego.

**Edson Washburn**, farmer and dairyman, owner of "Woodland Farm," Otsego township, was born in the township where he now resides, May 5, 1886, son of Edson D. and Amelia (Wells) Washburn. He passed through the grades of the common schools, and took under-graduate and post-graduate courses in the School of Agriculture, University of Minnesota. Ever since 1906, he has been in charge of the home farm of 300 acres. It is called the "Woodlawn Farm," and is regarded as the finest place in the township. The improvements are especially notable, and include a silo with a capacity of 100 tons. Mr. Washburn makes a specialty of dairying and has a splendid herd of full-blooded Guernsey cattle. Mr. Washburn is a Republican in politics, and is serving the town as justice of the peace. In farmers' organizations he has been especially active. He is one of the directors of the Farmers' Club of Otsego, a member of the Farmers' Shipping Association, and agent for the Farmers' Home Mutual Tornado Insurance Co., and of the Patrons' Co-operative Insurance Co. He belongs to Monticello Lodge, No. 16, A. F. & A. M., at Monticello, and the family faith is that of the Methodist Episcopal church. Mr. Washburn was married June 8, 1910, to Edna Wooley, of Buffalo, this county, and they have two children, Ennid G., born June 12, 1911, and Annis Leola, born March 11, 1913.

**Hiram Orville Harrington**, one of the leading and progressive farmers of Otsego township, was born in Martin county, this state, January 15, 1870, son of Johiel and Julia (Felt) Harrington, who took him as an infant to Hennepin county, and in 1878 brought him to Wright county. He here attended the district

schools and grew to manhood on his father's farm. He lived with his parents till twenty-two years old, then started out for himself, working in lumber camps and on drives about six years. Then he took up structural iron bridge work, which he followed with success till he married. In 1906 he settled on his present farm of 120 acres in sections 18 and 19, Otsego township. He has made extensive improvements, erected a good home, and developed a splendid farm. He is a good citizen, a good farmer, a good companion and a good family man, a desirable member of the community in every way. For the past six years he has been town constable, and for three years he has served as director of school district No. 10. On April 26, 1906, Mr. Harrington married May L. Hayward, daughter of John W. and Mary (Lowell) Hayward. Mrs. Harrington was born in Maine, and came to Minnesota with the family in 1882. She helped to care for her parents in their last illness, and her own health was seriously impaired thereby. Consequently she went to the hospital and underwent an operation. Since then she has been something of an invalid, but through it all she has been cheerful and helpful, and no one in the community better deserves the title of "well beloved" than does "Aunt May," as she is affectionately called. After the death of her parents she made her home with her brother Frank and was a great help to him in his pastoral duties. She was active in church and social affairs and a most useful member of the community. After she left her brother she took up her home with her sister, Mrs. J. E. Fulton, of Anoka, this state. There she was as active as before in church and social matters, and also in the Rebekah lodge. She was a friend to the old and young, and her influence in that city will never be eradicated. Her marriage, April 26, 1906, took place at high noon at the home of her sister. After the ceremony a wedding breakfast was served, followed by an informal reception for her friends. She received many valuable and useful presents, all the gifts being prompted by real love. After the reception she and her husband drove to his place in Otsego. There they have worked together to establish a home. The residence is ever filled with happiness and good cheer, and its hospitality is widely known. The school teachers and the young people call the place their home, and there goes out from its cheery atmosphere a beneficent influence that is far-reaching. Since she has been in Wright county Mrs. Harrington has continued to be active in church, social and fraternity work, and here as in previous places she is known by the loving title of "Aunt May." In every walk of life she has done her duty. She was a good daughter and has been a good wife and sister, a good neighbor and faithful friend.

**John W. Hayward** was born in Wesley, Washington county, Maine, April 26, 1835, and was there educated and reared to



manhood. On February 23, 1856, he married Mary Lowell. She came of a long line of scholars and teachers, and had herself been a successful educator, in fact, she was teaching when she met her future husband. Together they established a little farm home, and the family was well on the road to prosperity when the Civil War broke out. Faithful to the call of duty, he enlisted in the Union army, leaving his wife and three sons on the home farm. During his absence she taught school, using one of the rooms of the small house as a schoolroom. Mr. Hayward was wounded and came home on a furlough, but soon returned to the service. He was mustered out, with the rank of sergeant, at the close of the war. For several years thereafter he lived on the farm in Maine. All the eight children were born there. He was a good citizen and a good man. His wife was a good wife and mother, a real influence for righteousness throughout the community. They were both highly respected and always ready to give a helping hand to anyone in need. Mr. Hayward served several years as a town official and as a member of the school board. His health was never very good after his services in the army, but he was a brave, cheerful man, and always did all and the best he could for his large family. It was in 1883 that he sold out and brought his wife and five of the children to Minnesota. They lived at Spencer Brook, Isanti county, for a while, and in 1885 located in Otsego, in Wright county. Here he farmed and worked in a lumber camp. Two years later, however, he was taken ill, and he and his wife, with their children, May and Perlie, went to Glenwood, Iowa, and took up their home with the son, Frank, who was preaching there. The change did not benefit Mr. Hayward, however, and he died November 27, 1893. His wife died the following August, 1894. They are both laid at rest in the cemetery in Glenwood, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. Hayward had eight children: Frank L., Fred L., Allen B., Lottie H., May L., Melvina A., George C., John Perlie. Frank L. lives at Stevens Point, Wis. He is clergyman of the Methodist Episcopal church, and holds the degree of D. D. Fred L. is dead. Allen B. is married, and is engaged in lumbering in Maine. Lottie is the wife of Prentice Williams, and lives in Old Mystic, Conn. May L. is married to Hiram Orville Harrington, and lives on a farm at Otsego, Minn. Melvina is the wife of J. E. Fulton, and lives at Anoka, Minn. George C. is married and lives at Mildred, Mont. John Perlie is a farmer, is married, and lives at Topsham, Me.

**Johiel Harrington**, farmer and stockraiser, is one of the most honored and respected citizens of Otsego township. He was born in Ottawa, Canada, March 29, 1838, son of William and Mary (Wood) Harrington, both of whom died in northern Michigan. William Harrington was a farmer and lumberman. In the family there were ten children: Sarah E. (deceased); Johiel, of Otsego;



Hiram (deceased); Nathaniel, of Michigan; John (deceased); William, Rachael, Leonard and Mary, of Michigan; and Nancy, of Milaca, this state. Johiel Harrington moved with his parents from Canada to northern Michigan, and remained with his father until 1868. It was in that year that he came to this state, and located in Martin county. Some five years later, just as he was on the dawn of success, the grasshoppers devastated his farm, so he moved to Hennepin county. In 1878 he came to Wright county and bought seventy-two acres in section 30, Otsego township. He has wrought many improvements, has a well-developed farm, and carries on general farming and stockraising. Mr. Harrington is an independent voter. For some eight years he has served as a member of the school board. Mr. Harrington was married, April 13, 1863, to Julia Felt, born in St. Lawrence county, New York, April 24, 1841. Mr. and Mrs. Harrington have had five children: Mary Jane, Hattie, Hiram Orville, Capitola and Alberta. Mary Jane was born February 19, 1864, and died April 11, 1866. Hattie was born April 21, 1867, and married Burton Broughton, of Spokane, Wash. Hiram Orville was born January 15, 1870, and farms in Otsego township. Capitola was born June 24, 1872, and is the wife of George Hayes, of Everett, Wash. Alberta was born April 21, 1874, and is now the wife of Frank McKee, of Seattle, Wash. Mr. and Mrs. Johiel Harrington were entertained on their Golden wedding anniversary by their son, Hiram O. and his good wife, the date being April 13, 1913. About fifty guests were present. The reception committee consisted of six sturdy lads and a like number of dainty lasses. They sang "Put on Your Old Gray Bonnet," and then the wedding march was played, after which Rev. Norman Butdorf performed the marriage ceremony, at the conclusion of which Mr. Harrington, to the surprise of the clergyman and the merriment of the guests, paid the wedding fee. The young people sang "Silver Threads Among the Gold," and then Rev. Butdorf, with appropriate ceremony and fitting remarks, presented the happy couple with a gold and silver table set, with the date of the wedding and the date of the anniversary engraved on each piece. The personal gift from the clergyman consisted of a wedding booklet, with the dates, and with space left for the signatures of the witnesses and the guests. Refreshments of ice cream, wedding cake and bride cake were served, and all had a most enjoyable afternoon. Pictures were taken, good wishes exchanged, and the worthy couple then drove to their home two and a half miles away.

**Milton T. Hamlet**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in the township where he still resides, April 19, 1858, son of Dana R. and Elizabeth P. (Snow) Hamlet, natives of Maine, who arrived in Wright county April 12, 1856, pre-empted 160 acres in section

15, Otsego township, and here spent the remainder of their days, the father dying January 17, 1899, and the mother April 21, 1908, the latter having reached the age of ninety-one years. In the family there were five children: Anna E. (deceased); Helen A. (deceased); Clarence A. (deceased); Elmer A., of Monticello; and Milton T., of Otsego. Milton T. began life for himself at the age of sixteen years, and has devoted his time to farming, to rafting on the river, and to carpenter work. He now carries on general farming and stock raising on sixty acres of the old homestead. He is a Republican in politics and has served as town assessor. Mr. Hamlet was married December 11, 1880, to Emma L. Perry, a native of Maine, and to this union there have been born three children: William R., of Monticello; Guy M., of Drain, Ore.; and Nellie E., who is attending the high school at Monticello. The parents of Mrs. Milton T. Hamlet were William and Sarah J. (Seavey) Perry, both natives of Maine. The mother died in that state, but the father came to Wright county in 1870, and located in Otsego township, where he died in September, 1882. His business was that of a merchant. In the Perry family there were five children: Mary (deceased); Emma L.; Fanney (deceased); Fred; and Alice, the wife of Lincoln Davis, of Otsego.

**Orion L. Davis**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Elk River township, Sherburne county, April 23, 1857, son of Joseph and Emeline (Spencer) Davis, natives of Maine, who came to Minnesota in 1851, located in Sherburne county for several years, came to Otsego township in 1864, and secured 110 acres on which they spent the remainder of their days. The mother died January 15, 1914, the father having passed away a few years before. In the family there were thirteen children: Salvina, wife of Samuel Bobo, of Milaca, Minn.; Lowell (deceased); Orion L., of Otsego; Susan, wife of August Hagan, of Superior; Lincoln, of Otsego; Albert (deceased); Hannah (deceased); Melissie, wife of William Kay, of Chicago; Arthur, of Monticello; Sumner, who is with Orion L.; Nora, wife of Albert Williams, of Rochester, Minn.; and Arthur and Richard, both of whom died in infancy. Orion L. Davis remained with his parents until fifteen years of age. He devoted several years of his young manhood to farming in Otsego township, to river driving, and to farming in Morrison county. In 1894 he returned to the home farm, and operated the farm and looked after his parents until their death, when he inherited their place. He owns 157 acres, well improved, and carries on general farming, located in section 18. Mr. Davis was married November 29, 1883, to Sarah Kay, a native of Cook county, Illinois, and of English descent, daughter of Richard and Mary (Lofthouse) Kay, who settled in 1880 in Morrison county, this state, where the father now lives, and where the mother died. In the family there were seven children: William, of

Chicago; Ellen, wife of Lee Osgood, of Little Falls, Minn.; John, of Washington; George, of Little Falls, Minn.; Samuel (deceased); Sarah, wife of Orion L. Davis; and an unnamed boy, twin of Ellen, now deceased. The children of Mr. and Mrs. Orion L. Davis are: Edna, now Mrs. Orin Peary, of Otsego; Jessie, now Mrs. Roy Pipin, of Otsego; Andrew, at home; Sadie, now on a homestead in North Dakota; and Minnie, Gertrude, Lewis and Lucy (twins), at home.

**Alfred E. Borthwick**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in the township where he still lives, June 13, 1867, son of Aleck and Lydia (Hicks) Borthwick, the former a native of Prince Edward Island, and the latter a native of Illinois. The father came to America as a young man, and located in Hennepin county, near Dayton. In 1867 he settled in section 30, Otsego township, where he secured 100 acres. The father and mother are both dead. In the family there were eight children: Mary (deceased), James (deceased), Alfred, Clara (deceased), an unnamed infant who died the day of its birth, Charles, Electa (deceased), and Lucy. Alfred E. received his education in the district schools and was reared to agricultural pursuits. He received the home place by deed from his father. In 1892 he went to Idaho and remained two years, in the meantime renting his farm. He returned in 1894 and since then has successfully carried on general farming. Mr. Borthwick was married January 25, 1897, to Estella Humphrey, daughter of John and Addie (Regester) Humphrey, and to this union has been born one son, Harry Alfred, who was born January 7, 1898.

**Angus P. Praught**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Prince Edward Island, Canada, March 26, 1847, son of Daniel and Catherine (Campbell) Praught, natives of Prince Edward Island, both now deceased. In their family there were nine children: John, Mary, Emma and Sarah (deceased); Catherine, of Prince Edward Island; Angus P.; Frank, of Prince Edward Island; Margaret, wife of Philip Curley, of Prince Edward Island; and Joseph, who is on the old home place in Prince Edward Island. Angus P. Praught came to Minnesota at the age of twenty-one years. After working in the woods some eight years he came to Silver Creek township and purchased 40 acres in section 31. This he has increased until he now owns 240 acres of highly improved land, on which he conducts general farming on an extensive scale. He is a Democrat, and the family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Praught was married June 14, 1876, to Sarah Walker, born in Chemung county, New York, daughter of Thomas and Marian Walker, natives of Ireland, who in the early fifties settled in Rockford township, this county, where both ended their days. In their family there were six children: John, of Minneapolis; William (deceased); Sarah, wife of Angus P.



MR. AND MRS. A. P. PRAUGHT





Praught; Thomas, of Minneapolis; Mary; and James, who died in infancy. Mrs. Praught taught school in Wright county seven years before her marriage. Mr. and Mrs. Praught have ten children: Donald J., born July 1, 1877; Raymond, born December 9, 1879; Marian C., born July 12, 1881, wife of John Talbot, of Hennepin county; Frank J., born March 11, 1883; Mark E., born April 2, 1885; James H., born April 21, 1887; Amelia J., born April 27, 1889; William, born March 21, 1891; Victor A., born March 23, 1893; and Bertha D., born July 4, 1895. Raymond Praught married Clara Bean, and by this union there are two children: Clarence Harold, born August 1, 1908; and Francis Joseph, born May 13, 1910.

**Conrad N. Nellis**, farmer, Otsego township, was born October 1, 1881, son of John and Margaret (Stenglein) Nellis, natives of Germany, who came to America in the early sixties and located in Hennepin county, this state. In the family there were twelve children. Conrad A. Nellis left home at the age of fifteen, and supported himself doing railroad work summers while he went to school winters. In this way he passed through the high school and the State Normal School. Later he took courses in the Minnesota School of Business at Minneapolis. Thus equipped, he took a position as a bookkeeper in a wholesale grocery house. Some two and a half years later he took a similar position with a dry goods house for some two years. Then for four years he farmed near Anoka. In 1908 he came to Wright county and purchased 80 acres in section 20, Otsego township. Here he devotes his time largely to berry culture and stock raising, making a specialty of full-blooded Holstein cattle. He is a Democrat in politics, and belongs to the Brotherhood of American Yeomen, the St. Joseph Society, and the American Federation of Musicians. The family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. and Mrs. Nellis have had five children: Hazel, born March 13, 1904; Louis, born April 12, 1906; Grace, born July 23, 1908; Verna, born August 29, 1910; and Leo, born March 20, 1912.

**Jerry Bouley**, farmer, Otsego township, was born in Hennepin county June 14, 1870, son of Tales and Clementine Bouley, the former a native of Michigan and the latter of Quebec, Canada. In 1876 they came to Wright county and located in Otsego township. The mother died in May, 1910. The father is on a claim at Wilston, N. D. In the family there were eleven children: Jerry; Laura (deceased); Clara (deceased); George and Edward (twins), who died in infancy; Peter, of Dayton; George, of Virginia, Minn.; Joseph, of Dayton; Vina, wife of C. Haley, of Dayton; Leo, of Virginia, Minn., and a girl who died in infancy. Jerry Bouley was reared to agricultural pursuits. Even as a small boy he did a man's work on the farm and rafted logs on the river. At the age of sixteen he started work for a boom

company on the river, and was thus employed for thirteen seasons. Later he purchased ten acres of land. At various times he has added tracts of twenty-five, eighty and forty acres, all in section 36, Otsego township, and he now has a well-improved farm with a sightly home and good barns. He successfully carries on general farming, and occupies an enviable place in the community. He is a Democrat in politics, and is now serving the township as supervisor. The family faith is that of the Catholic church. By his first wife Mr. Bouley had five children: J. A., of International Falls, Minn.; Olive, of Dayton; Clara, wife of Victor Blanchett, of Otsego; and Frank and Albert, at home. For his second wife, Mr. Bouley married Mary Rabsheand, and they have one child, Obeline. A daughter, unnamed, and Elmer, Leona and Arnold died in infancy.

**John O. Braun**, stock raiser and farmer, Otsego township, was born in Germany, February 8, 1857, son of John A. and Margareta (Neu) Braun, natives of Germany, who came to America in 1879, and located in Glencoe, Minn., where the father died and where the mother still makes her home. In the family there were eight children: Mary, wife of Peter Rech, of Glencoe; John O.; Matthew (deceased); Margaret (deceased); Michael (deceased); Jacob, of Glencoe; Elizabeth, wife of Michael Seifert, of Glencoe; and Peter, also of Glencoe. John O. Braun remained with his parents until he was twenty-six years of age. After his marriage, he was assisted by his father in buying eighty acres. After operating this farm eighteen years he purchased 222 acres in section 32, Otsego township, and section 5, Frankfort township. He has a fine farm, an excellent line of improvements, and a full equipment of tools and machinery. His specialty is the raising of pure-blooded stock of the Holstein breed. Mr. Braun has been treasurer of the school board of his district for ten years. He belongs to the German Catholic Benevolent Society, and the family faith is that of the Roman Catholic church. Mr. Braun married Mary Agnes Donnay, born in Holland, October 24, 1861, daughter of Henry and Cecelia (Kolen) Donnay. Mr. and Mrs. Braun have had ten children: John A., of Frankfort township, this county; Margaret (deceased); Henry (at home); William, of Anoka county; Michael (deceased); Peter (deceased); Matilda, wife of Homer Gimau, of Anoka county; Cecelia, Catherine and Fritz, at home.

**Nathaniel Mooers**, pioneer, was born in Candia, N. H., January 26, 1816, and was married October 2, 1844, at Buffalo, N. Y., to Maria Van Evra, a native of Montgomery county, New York. In early manhood he was a stone cutter, but ill health compelled him to give up that trade. At the time of his marriage he operated two passenger packets between Albany and Buffalo on the Erie canal. He carried the governor of the state of New York







MR. AND MRS. CALVIN MOOERS AND RESIDENCE

from Buffalo to Albany, 365 miles, in twenty hours and had a congratulatory letter from the governor on the occasion, as it was at the time the quickest trip made over the length of the canal, with horses as the motive power. The trip was made in the summer of 1843. He afterward engaged in the meat business and in farming. It was in 1855 that he came to Minnesota, and after reaching Wright county, staked out a claim on what afterward became known as Mooers' Prairie, near what is now Cokato. He then returned to New York state. In 1856 he again came to Minnesota, and located for a year at St. Anthony, a part of what is now Minneapolis. In 1857 he took up his residence on his claim in Wright county. He erected a log cabin, cleared and broke the land, and there made his home until the Indian outbreak of 1862, when he took his family to Rockford village and rented a farm in the township of Rockford. In 1866 he purchased a farm over the line in Hennepin county, where he died February 24, 1874. After his death his wife remained on the farm about three years. Then she sold out and moved to Rockford village. She died at Monango, Dickie county, North Dakota, September 7, 1897.

**Calvin Mooers, Sr.**, retired, now living at 305 Fifteenth avenue, North, Minneapolis, was born in the village of Root, Montgomery county, New York, July 7, 1845, son of Nathaniel and Maria (Van Evra) Mooers. He received his education in the state of his birth, and in 1857 was brought to St. Anthony in this state. A year later he came to Wright county with his parents, and assisted them in developing their claim near Cokato. On this farm he remained a year after the family went to Rockford. July 27, 1863, he enlisted as a private in Co. B, Hatch's Independent Cavalry, and served three years on the frontier against the Indians. June 10, 1866, he was mustered out with the rank of sergeant, and joined his parents in Hennepin county, where, in the meantime, they had moved. It was in 1872 that he became associated with the St. Paul & Pacific Elevator Company. As agent for this concern he was one year at Howard Lake, three years at St. Joseph, and two and a half years at Cokato, near which he had spent the days of his youth, and where he had known the rigors of pioneer endeavor. After leaving the employ of the elevator company, he erected an elevator of his own at Howard Lake, and engaged in business for himself as grain buyer and dealer in lime, lumber and building material. After three years he sold out to the St. Anthony & Dakota Elevator Company, went to Minneapolis, and associated himself with the Northwestern Elevator Company, owning a chain of elevators along several lines of railroad. With this company he worked in Minneapolis a year, and then for three years acted as traveling superintendent. Then he engaged in farming at Crary, N. D.

Still later he erected and conducted elevators at Crary, Grand Forks, Hamilton and Neeche, all in North Dakota. In time he disposed of these, but still continued farming. In 1897 he returned to Wright county and purchased the creamery at Rockford. After conducting this for three years he sold out to the farmers. Then he moved to Monticello, where, after conducting a creamery two years, he retired. In August, 1914, he rented his property at Monticello, and moved to his present residence in Minneapolis. Mr. Mooers has been a prominent man in all the places in which he has resided. In Monticello he was justice of the peace. At Crary, N. D., he was justice of the peace and town clerk. While on the farm at Crary he superintended the building of the School for the Deaf, situated at Devil's Lake, N. D., and under appointment by Gov. Eli C. D. Shortridge, served four years as one of its trustees. He is now a member of Chase Post, No. 22, G. A. R., Minneapolis; he and his wife are members of the Territorial Pioneers' Association, and his wife is a member of the Women's Relief Corps. He has also been connected with the Masonic fraternity forty-one years. Both himself and wife have been members of the Order of the Eastern Star for nearly twenty years. Mr. Mooers was first married, May 1, 1868, to Elvira V. Ferrell and to this union were born four children: Reginald Grant, born May 24, 1869, is now a traveling salesman living in Chicago. Elsie Maria, born September 16, 1870, is now wife of Albert M. Powell, a real estate and insurance agent of Devil's Lake, N. D. Charles Everett, born July 3, 1872, is now a physician at Seattle, Wash.; George William, who was born February 27, 1874, and died June 21, 1913, at Devil's Lake, N. D. He was a bonanza farmer and in the real estate, loans and insurance business. At his death he was president of the Board of Education and head of the Order of United Workmen of North Dakota and the district comprising two other states in the northwest. Mrs. Elvira V. (Ferrell) Mooers died March 10, 1874. Mr. Mooers was married May 1, 1877, to Mary Jane Northrup, born in Granville, Washington county, New York, March 17, 1847. By this union there were born five children: Alida Elvira, born September 2, 1880, is the wife of William J. Drew, of Hasty, Minn. Calvin, Jr., born February 11, 1883, is manager of the Mooers Butter Company, located at 1507 Washington avenue, North, Minneapolis. Florin Jefferson, born March 29, 1885, is butter maker for the Mooers Butter Company. Frank Burt, born August 12, 1887, is salesman for the same concern. Martha Elizabeth, born August 8, 1892, is secretary and treasurer of the company. Collectively they form the Mooers Butter Company.

**Abel C. Northrop** and his good wife, Elizabeth (Weaver) Northrop, came to Minnesota in 1856 and located at Greenwood,







R. O. CRAWFORD AND FAMILY

in Hennepin county, for about a year and a half. Later they came to Wright county and located in Rockford township, where they became prominent and successful citizens. Mr. Northrop died January 24, 1883, and Mrs. Northrop March 25, 1899. In the Northrop family there were six children: Mary Jane and Martha Jane were born at Granville, N. Y., March 18, 1847. Mary Jane is the wife of Calvin Mooers, Sr., of Minneapolis, and Martha Jane died in May, 1914. John Henry was born October 15, 1850, and is now in Utah. George C. was born January 24, 1853, and died August 18, 1911. Frank Burt was born July 14, 1861, and died May 12, 1884. Sidney A. was born May 16, 1870, and died August 31, 1870.

**William J. Dixon**, a well-to-do and influential farmer of Rockford township, where he owns a large tract of land, was born in Frankfort township, May 28, 1868, son of James Dixon, the pioneer. He was educated in the district schools and has devoted his life to farming, starting out for himself at the age of twenty-one. In 1889 he and his brother, Thomas Dixon, started farming on a tract of 291½ acres in Rockford township. Both were good farmers and good managers, willing to toil early and late, and by judicious purchases they were enabled to increase their tract to about 700 acres, beautifully situated on the banks of Dean lake. In 1912 the partnership was dissolved by mutual consent and the land divided, but it is still operated practically as one farm. Good crops and a high grade of live stock are raised. William J. Dixon has been unusually active in township affairs, and has won much credit for the efficient manner in which he has served the neighborhood. He was on the first board of the Buffalo Co-Operative Creamery, and is now its president. He is one of the directors of the Farmers' Co-Operative Store at Buffalo. For nine years he has been a supervisor of Rockford township, and for a long period he has been a member of the school board. His home is a modern brick building, and his barns and other buildings are of the best. He is a useful citizen, and is highly esteemed throughout the county. His success has been merited, and in bringing his own place to so high a degree of perfection he has also assisted in the general development of the county. In addition to the tract of 400 acres which constitutes his home farm, he is the owner of a tract of eighty acres on section 14. William J. Dixon married Anna Leerssen, daughter of George Leerssen, and they have seven children: Sarah, Ethel, Julius, Barbara, George, Edith and Arthur. All are being given an excellent education, and the oldest daughter is attending Hamline University.

**Rollin O. Crawford**, a substantial and respected citizen of Rockford township, was born in Orleans county, New York, September 7, 1844, son of Oshea and Marietta (Standish) Crawford.

Oshea Crawford was a Free Will Baptist clergyman. From New York he came west to Ohio, and there died at the age of thirty-two. His wife was a descendant of the Massachusetts Standishes. In the family there were five children, Hiram, Oscar, Rollin O., Oshea, Jr., and Viola. After the death of the father, the noble mother, desiring to secure a homestead for her children, came to Wright county in 1857, and located on eighty acres in Rockford township, purchasing the claim rights of a Mr. Hamilton. She moved with her small children into the log cabin which stood on the place, and started to rear her family in the wilderness. Times were hard and provisions were few, and her strength and resources were taxed to the utmost. For a time her brother, Florentine Standish, was with her, but he was soon called away and she was left alone with the children. She farmed with the aid of a yoke of yearling steers and two cows, and got in what crops she could. Fortunately, when times were the worst, the ginseng buyers came into the county, and the family were enabled to gather ginseng and raise a little ready cash. Later the mother married Alby Bucklin, a native of Michigan, and moved onto his farm, leaving the homestead to Rollin O. She died in Rockford, February 1, 1913, at the age of ninety-two years. She has been a faithful mother and a true woman, and held the respect and esteem of all who knew her. Rollin O. Crawford came west with the rest of the family, and has lived on the same place since 1857. When the war broke out three of the sons enlisted. Hiram went into Co. H, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and died at Louisville, Ky., as the result of illness contracted in the army. Oshea, Jr., enlisted in the First Minnesota Heavy Artillery. Rollin O. went into Co. H, Third Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served three years and eleven months. He was captured at Murfreesboro, was imprisoned about two months, was parolled, went to the Northwest against the Indians, and was later again sent South. At the Battle of Fitz Hugh Woods, Arkansas, he was wounded in the arm. After the war he returned home and resumed work on the home place. He has been very successful, has increased the original acreage until he now owns 157 acres of good land, and has erected comfortable and substantial buildings. In spite of his years he is hale and hearty, a vigorous, energetic and popular citizen. While he has carried on general farming and raised diversified crops, he has in recent years made a specialty of thoroughbred Jersey stock. As a friend of education he has served on the school board for many years. He has always stood for the best things in the community, and no one is more highly regarded than he. Mr. Crawford was married February 22, 1868, to Maria Swartout, born in Saratoga county, New York, July 11, 1846, daughter of Kramer and Charlotte (Birch) Swartout. Mr. and Mrs. Crawford have ten children:



Lottie, Rollie H., Lavina, Alonzo, Howard, Robert, Esther, Viola, Richard and an unnamed infant (deceased). Kramer Swartout brought his family from Saratoga county, New York, the place of his nativity, and settled in St. Paul in 1856, moving to section 18, Rockford township, in 1858. He was a true pioneer, helped to bring the wilderness under control, and did his early farming with a pair of cows. After the Civil war broke out, he enlisted in Co. E, Eighth Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, and served against the Indians. He led a useful, busy life and was much respected.

**Richard Crawford**, a progressive farmer of Rockford township, was born on the family homestead in section 20, Rockford township, October 3, 1881, son of Rollin O. Crawford, the pioneer. He attended the district school of his neighborhood, the village school at Montrose, and the St. Cloud State Normal School. He has a decided mechanical taste, and from his earliest boyhood has done more or less in the way of repairing machinery of various kinds. He has, however, devoted his life to farming. He has a tract of fifty-nine acres of good land, and successfully carries on general farming and stock raising. He has built a modern house of cement blocks, and has other sightly buildings. His fraternal associations are with the Modern Brotherhood of America, at Rockford. Mr. Crawford was married in 1906, to Lucretia Walker, daughter of Robert and Evelyn Walker, and they have five children, Wellington, Lawrence, May, Roberta and Rollin.

**Robert W. Crawford**, one of the young representative farmers of Wright county, was born on the old Rollin O. Crawford homestead in Rockford township. He attended the rural schools of his neighborhood, and completed his studies at the Montrose school. He was reared to agricultural pursuits and has always remained on the home farm, which he now owns and operates. He has served on the school board of his district and is a member of the Modern Woodmen of America at Montrose. He was united in marriage December 25, 1906, to Bessie Thompson, and to them have been born a daughter, Eva May, born May 19, 1908.

**James E. Darrow**, after undergoing unusual experiences in the far Northwest, is now cultivating a Wright county farm, and is putting into its work the same amount of strength and energy which he formerly exercised in seeking gold in the mountains of Alaska and British Columbia. Mr. Darrow was born in Ashtabula county, Ohio, August 11, 1875, son of George and Hattie (Collard) Darrow, who in 1876 brought him to Wright county and settled on section 19, Rockford township. He was reared in Rockford, and was educated in the district schools of Rockford, as well as in the public and commercial schools of Minneapolis. For four years he worked in the baggage room of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul railroad, at Minneapolis. Later he worked awhile at Seattle. There he heard many stories



of the great wealth to be gained in Alaska. Accordingly he started out for the far Northwest, and before he came back to the States had worked in Alaska and in British Columbia. Later he was employed for six years with the Union Iron & Ship Building Works at San Francisco. But he still kept Wright county in his thoughts, and in 1909 he returned to Rockford township and purchased 105 acres of good ground. He and the brother, Guy, have purchased the old homestead of eighty acres. They raise good stock and Percheron horses and carry on general farming in a successful manner.

**Kit Carson Crandall**, a well known farmer of Rockford township, named after Christopher (Kit) Carson, the famous Indian fighter and guide to Charles C. Fremont, was born in a log house one mile south of Delano, March 28, 1862. He is the son of James D. Crandall and Frances L. Crandall, the pioneers. James D. Crandall was born near Jamestown, in western New York, in 1822. He was the son of Jenks Crandall, and is believed to be a lineal descendant of the emigrant, John Crandall, who with Roger Williams and three others settled Rhode Island, and were the founders of the Baptist Church in America. Francis L. (Steward) Crandall was born at Saybrooke, Ohio, in 1832, the daughter of Oliver Steward and Caroline Talcott. Her ancestors, like the Crandalls, came to New England with the colonists, and on her mother's side the line runs back to the Dean, Lawrence and Warren families. James Crandall came from New York state to Ohio, and was there married. In 1861, with his wife and three small children, George O., Clint and Henry, he started with a horse team from Ashtabula, Ohio, to Wright county, Minnesota. They stopped in Delano for a short time, and after looking about secured land in section 12, Rockford. On the top of a rise of land which has since been called Crandall's hill, they erected a log cabin. From the door of this cabin, there was visible a beautiful stretch of valley, covered with heavy timber as far as the eye could reach. From the lawn of the modern house that now occupies the hill, the same country can still be seen. But the timber has been cut off, and the rich and picturesque valley now contains some of the best farms in the county. Like the other pioneers, the Crandall family started work clearing off the timber, breaking the land and getting in the seed. Acre by acre they wrested the rich land from the grip of the wilderness. During the Indian outbreak, they fled to Rockford village, but soon returned and again took up their work. Times were hard, provisions were sometimes scarce, no one in the county had much ready cash, all were on an equal, and all working together for the development of the community. James Crandall became a prominent man, served on the town and school boards, and acted for some years as assessor. He died in 1896. His wife

died a year earlier. George O. Crandall, the eldest son, died in 1909. The three are buried in beautiful Evergreen cemetery at Rockford. Kit Carson Crandall was taken to the cabin on Crandall hill as an infant and was there reared. He attended school in the neighborhood, and by working on the home place became proficient as a farmer. He also learned the trade of blacksmith, which he followed for some years. After his marriage he went south, and followed his trade in Henry county, Missouri. Then he returned to the old homestead, where he now lives. He has a well-kept place, and is an estimable citizen in every respect. Mr. Crandall married Lonie Reader, a native of Germany, and they have five children, Helen, Marguerite, Oliver, Leo and Forest.

**Gottlieb Biegert**, one of the progressive farmers of Rockford township, was born in Baden, Germany, July 16, 1860, son of George and Mary (Herster) Biegert. The mother died in Germany in 1873, at the age of forty-two, leaving five children, Mary, Carrie, George, Gottlieb and Minnie. In 1882 the father brought the motherless family to America. They landed at New York City and came west to Charles City, Iowa, where they lived until the spring of 1883. Then they came to Rockford township, where the father purchased 100 acres of the old Dixon place, where he lived until the family was scattered. He died in 1898 at the age of seventy-three. Gottlieb Biegert lived the same kind of life as other boys of his period and neighborhood, and at a suitable age entered the German army. He had just completed his service in the army when he came to America with the rest of the family. When the family reached Rockford he purchased 100 acres in Rockford township, where he has since resided. He has greatly improved the place, erected new buildings, bought a full equipment of tools and machinery, and become a modern farmer in every respect. In addition to the home farm, he owns sixty acres in the same township, where his son Robert lives. Mr. Biegert is a representative citizen, has done jury service several times, and has served as a member of the school board of his district for some fourteen years. Mr. Biegert married Mary Kettenaker, daughter of Jacob Kettenaker, who came over on the same ship with the Biegerts. Mr. and Mrs. Biegert have four children: Charles, Robert, Emma (now Mrs. Peiper) and Susan.

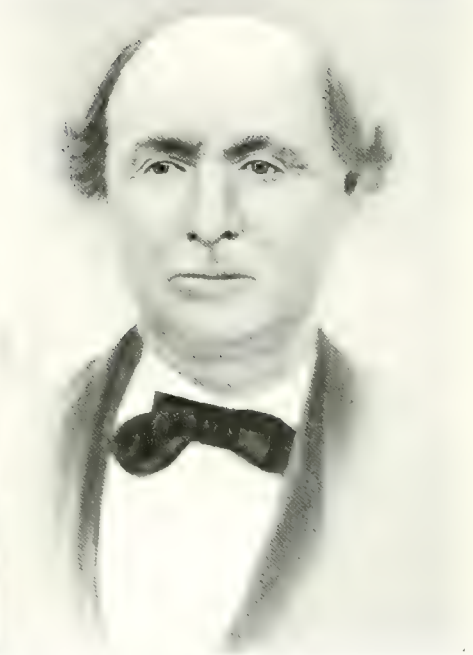
**Andrew Borngesser**, one of the pioneers of Rockford township, was born in Hesse-Darmstadt, Germany, November 22, 1831, son of Valentine and Elizabeth Borngesser. There was also a daughter, Elizabeth, in the family. Valentine Borngesser died, and his widow married George Grevema. By this union there were born four children, Anna, Margaret, Christina and George. Andrew Borngesser was reared in his native land, attended the

schools of his neighborhood and there grew to manhood. February 3, 1856, he married Anna, and on June 6, of the same year, arrived in New York city. From there they came to Milwaukee, Wis., and by September 1, 1856, he was in Wright county, his wife remaining in Milwaukee until fall. He had reached this county by coming by boat to St. Paul, and then walking the remainder of the distance. He located in the wild woods, on section 3, in range 24, Rockford township. Some twenty rods east of the present residence he erected a log cabin, and there they started housekeeping. The first crops were planted with a "grub" hoe, in the virgin sod. He secured two good cows soon after his arrival, but it was the second year before they were able to buy a yoke of oxen. For a vehicle they used a sled. To make corn bread they ground corn in the coffee-mill, and for coffee they used roasted barley, rye and wheat. Times were hard, provisions were scarce, difficulties were many. Fortunately the sale of ginseng brought the family a little ready cash, and the acreage of the crops increased from year to year. When news came of the Indian uprising, the whole family, consisting of Andrew Borngesser and his three children, Andrew, Anna and Kate, walked to Minneapolis, where they found shelter until the danger was past. In religion, Mr. Borngesser adhered to the German Evangelical church, and he was one of those who assisted in building the church near St. Michael. His prosperity increased with the years, and it was not long before he became a leading citizen. His wife, Anna Ruppelius, who was born April 21, 1836, died in 1880. Their children were: Andrew (deceased), Anna (deceased), Kate (deceased), Christina, Fred, Elizabeth, Andrew E. and George (deceased). For his second wife he married Anna Marie Wettreau, a widow, who died June 11, 1913, at the age of eighty-two.

**Andrew E. Borngesser**, a wide-awake, active farmer of Rockford township, was born on the old homestead where he still resides, July 20, 1873, son of Andrew and Anna Borngesser, the pioneers. With the exception of two years in Minneapolis and one year in Hanover, he has spent his life on the home place. He attended the district schools, helped with the farm work, and led the life customary for boys of his age and time. Since taking charge of the place he has made many improvements, erected modern farm buildings and developed the land. He carries on general farming and makes a specialty of raising good stock. He has been clerk of the school district No. 54 for the past three years. Mr. Borngesser was married May 28, 1896, to Elizabeth Roloff, daughter of Charles and Minnie (Berrans) Roloff, and they have one son, Edward. Three of their children, Nora, Walter and an unnamed infant, are dead. The family attend the Lutheran church at Hanover.







JAMES M. POWERS AND WILLIAM SLEIGHT

**James Melville Powers**, deceased, was born in Berlin, Ohio, May 8, 1836. He attended the public schools there and received a good education. At the age of nineteen he came to Minnesota with his parents and located with them on a farm at Greenwood, Hennepin county, in 1855. He became interested in agriculture and in 1867 purchased a farm of 160 acres in Rockford township, Wright county, of wild uncultivated land. He began clearing the land, grubbing up trees and breaking the soil. In time he built buildings and developed this tract into a fine farm. In 1891 he sold the farm and retired to Minneapolis, but in 1907 he returned to Wright county and purchased the John Woodward home in Rockford village, where he made his home during the summers for three years, until January 22, 1911, when he died at the home of his son in Winona, where he was visiting. Mrs. Powers still owns the home at Rockford, this place being originally the property of Mrs. Powers' maternal grandfather. Mr. Powers enlisted in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry at the first call by Lincoln. At the end of nine months he re-enlisted for three years in the Berdan Sharp Shooters and went south. After serving nearly three years he became sick with typhoid fever and was honorably discharged and returned to his home in Hennepin county. He was a member of the G. A. R. at Rockford and also a member of the Masons. Mr. Powers was married in 1865 to Lucinda Weston, who died in March, 1882, leaving three children: Lulu, now Mrs. Charles Walters, of St. Paul, who has three children, Margaret, Russell and Robert; Nellie, now Mrs. Edward Darrow of Big Lake, Minn., who has two children, Earl and Lulu; and Fletcher M. D., at Barrett, Minn., who married Belle Lewis and has three children, Pearl, Ruth and Esther. Mr. Powers married a second time, June 20, 1884, Mrs. Sarah (Sleight) Atwood, who survives him. They had no children. Mrs. Sarah Powers was born at Belvidere, Ill., December 18, 1852, and came with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Sleight, to Rockford township, Wright county, in 1856. Mr. William Sleight and his good wife Lydia (Woodard) Sleight came from Illinois in the territorial days and pre-empted a tract of 160 acres of wild land in Rockford township. They worked hard and prospered, and were numbered among Wright county's most prominent citizens. Mr. Sleight farmed there until his death, December 7, 1884, having one of the finest fruit farms of the section. He was an ardent worker and supporter of the Methodist Episcopal church and served as Sunday school superintendent for many years. He was one of the founders of the Wright County Agricultural Society and also of the Old Settlers' Association, in both of which societies he held the office of president for several years. Mrs. Sleight died May 26, 1889. There were five children: Mary, who was born at Belvidere, Ill., 1850,

and died at Minneapolis in 1869, being at the time of her death a student at the University of Minnesota; Sarah and John, twins, Sarah becoming Mrs. James M. Powers, John conducting the farm in Rockford until his death, October 26, 1909, his wife, Laura (Workman) Sleight, surviving him with four children; Hettie, who died July 6, 1871; and William, a contractor and decorator of Crookston, who married Pearl Lawton, and has one child, William, Jr. The children of John Sleight are: Fred, a railroad man at Harvey, married to Esther Frederick; and Lottie, Hettie and Lydia, living with their mother at Delano. Previous to her marriage with Mr. Powers, Mrs. Sarah Powers was married, in 1872, at Delano, Minn., to Isaac Atwood, who died December 22, 1881. By this marriage she had two children: Harry, now wire chief for the Northwestern Telephone Exchange at Austin, married to Delia Theil and having two children: Janet and Gilford; and Nellie, now Mrs. Frank Gold, of 2004 James avenue, south, Minneapolis, having one daughter, Sarah Elizabeth. Mr. Gold is connected with the Northwestern Knitting Company, of Minneapolis. Mrs. Powers is living with her daughter in Minneapolis, and is a member of the O. E. S. and the W. R. C. at Rockford.

**Nels Bengtson**, a sturdy pioneer, was one of the men who, by undergoing all the hardships and privations of frontier life, won for himself a position as one of the makers of the county, and left to his family a splendid heritage of honor. He was born in Sweden, October 6, 1825, and died October 16, 1911. In 1851 he married Mary Larson, who was born October 26, 1826, and died May 3, 1913. In 1866, they set out for America, with their six children, Christine, Carrie, Bengt (deceased), Louis, Mary and Nels August. The voyage was made on the sailing vessel "Superior," and occupied a period of four weeks. Upon landing, they made their way westward to Minnesota, and came as far as Big Lake, in Sherburne county, where the railroad ended. Then with friends they came with an ox team to Wright county. For a month they lived in Marysville township. About the first of August they filed on a claim of eighty acres in Rockford township, section 8. This was the only claim left in the neighborhood, and the last one to be taken. The tract was entirely covered with trees, and no roads led to the place. The first log cabin was erected with but three walls, the fourth side being left open for light and air. Later a log house with two windows and a door was erected. It stood about twenty rods south of the present home. For a time, having no money, Nels Bengtson worked about among the neighbors. He put in his first potatoes by planting them with a "grub" hoe among the stumps. Sometimes the flour was made by pounding grain between two stones. Sometimes he walked to Rockford and Minneapolis and brought

a small sack of flour home on his back. In time he was enabled to purchase two calves, which he raised for oxen. In the course of time he had the eighty acres under cultivation, and added twenty more. A modern house and barn also replaced the original log structure. Mr. Bengstrom held various offices and was a prominent member of the Lutheran church. In fact, he was the one who proposed the erection of a church of that denomination in this vicinity. Aside from the children brought here, there were two more in the family, both born in the old log cabin, Frank and Elmira. Elmira died at the age of eight years. Nels August was born May 1, 1865. Frank was born July 2, 1868. Both attended the district schools, and together they now operate the home farm. They are prosperous and successful men, and occupy a most admirable place in the community. Frank married Mary Marie Norene, a native of Sweden, who came to the United States and to Minnesota in 1898. She was the daughter of Peter and Anna Norene, both born in Sweden. Frank Bengstrom and his wife have three children: Victor, born March 10, 1903; Mabel, born May 20, 1901, and died February 24, 1902; and Mabel Victoria, born June 6, 1913.

**William Sook**, one of Wright county's early pioneers, was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, in 1827 and was one of seven sons of John and Rosalia Stein Sook. He came to New York in 1848 and in 1851 was united in marriage to Mary T. Mullins. They resided in New York state until 1857, when they came west to Rockford, in this county, and settled on a homestead, where he resided until his death in 1887. He was a man of sound integrity, honest and straightforward in his dealings with his fellowmen and loved and respected by his neighbors. Eight children were born, five of whom are living: George, Anna S., Ellen, Homer, Emma, Rosella died in infancy, and John N. and Joseph in maturity. Mrs. Mary T. Sook, whose maiden name was Mary T. Mullins, was born in Wexford, Ireland, April 30, 1829. At the age of sixteen years she came to Canada with a married sister, who was then living in Quebec, Canada, and later came to New York to visit another married sister. In 1851 she was united in marriage to William Sook, then a resident of New York state. Mrs. Sook still resides on the homestead and, despite her advanced age, is quite hale and hearty and can tell many interesting stories of the early pioneer days.

**John C. Swanson**, an influential farmer residing in section 14, Rockford, has taken more than usual interest in the development of the township and county. He was the first man in the township to raise full-blooded swine, and the first to bring here a corn binder, hay loader, and side-delivery rake. He thoroughly believes in the development of the rural districts of the state, and is an earnest advocate of scientific farming, pure breeds of stock,



and the use of the latest approved machinery. John C. Swanson was born in the southern part of Sweden, October 5, 1864, son of Sven and Elsie (Nelson) Johnson. Elsie Nelson Johnson was born April 8, 1836, and died in 1891. Sven Johnson was born September 21, 1834, came to America, and died April, 1914, at Chicago. The children in the family were Hannah, Nels, John C., Nellie, Annie, Carl B. and Marie. John C. and his sister Nellie came to the United States in 1886. After a year in Tampico, Ill., Mr. Swanson came to Wright county. For two years he worked on farms, and then for four seasons did carpenter work in Minneapolis. After his marriage, he rented land in Wright county. Later he bought eighty acres in Rockford township. Only fifteen acres of this had at that time been cleared. He cleared up the land, erected a farm residence, a barn 34 by 86, and other buildings, and made many improvements. He now farms a tract of 160 acres, and is making the most of every acre. He raises Red Poll cattle, Poland China swine and Percheron and Belgian horses. He is a member of the school board of his district, and assists in every movement which has for its object the betterment of the community. In addition to his Wright county property he owns 160 acres near Duluth. Mr. Swanson married Anna Sook, a native of Wright county, a daughter of William Sook, the pioneer. Mr. and Mrs. Swanson have had eight children: Nellie Ruth, Rosella, John Howard, Elsie Luella, Maurice M., Mary Theresa, William Harold (deceased) and Edith (deceased). All the children are receiving a splendid education. The oldest is a student at Carleton College, at Northfield, Minn. The family worship at the Presbyterian church.























